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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: TRANSPARENCY IN ARMAMENTS

Report on the continuing operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and its further development

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolutions 49/75 C of 15 December 1994, 50/70 D of 12 December 1995 and 51/45 H of 10 December 1996, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts, on the continuing operation of the Register of Conventional Arms and its further development, taking into account the report of the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 session on the subject of international arms transfers, the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the views expressed by Member States and the 1994 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development (A/49/316), with a view to a decision by the Assembly at its fifty-second session.

2. Pursuant to those resolutions, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Assembly the report on the continuing operation of the Register of Conventional Arms and its further development.

* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

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ANNEX

Report on the continuing operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and its further development

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FOREWORD BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

At the time of its establishment in 1992, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms was considered a ground-breaking endeavour in international efforts to promote openness and transparency in military matters. I believe that the Register, as part of a range of international efforts, continues to be an important tool in helping to prevent an excessive and destabilizing accumulation of arms and in providing a valuable input into bilateral and regional dialogues on security concerns. In a world in which security in isolation is no longer possible, there are potent reasons for maintaining a large measure of transparency in matters related to defence policies and armaments - one of the most important being minimizing the risk of misunderstanding or miscalculation in military matters, thus contributing to the development of trust and more stable relations among States.

Five years after the establishment of the Register, it is time to take stock and to review once again the scope of and participation in the Register. In this context, I welcome the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms on its recently completed, and unanimously adopted report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development. That report took into account the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1996 session on the subject of international arms transfers, the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the views expressed by Member States and the 1994 report on the continuing operation and further development of the Register.

Since 1992, over 90 Governments have reported annually on their international transfers in the seven categories of conventional arms in the Register. I am encouraged by the continuing commitment of those States in reporting regularly to the Register. Through the participation of both exporter and importer States, the bulk of international trade in these major conventional weapons systems has been covered. At the same time, participation in the Register has not yet reached the desired goal of universality. There remains a significant variation among regions where the relevance of the Register to the security interests of component States has yet to be determined, or where other weapons-related or equipment-related measures not covered by the Register are particularly important in addressing the whole spectrum of security concerns. Nonetheless, wider participation by Governments, especially in certain regions and subregions, is of paramount importance if the Register is to be further consolidated.

I am encouraged that support for the Register through regional arrangements and agencies has continued to grow and that the global Register has been complemented by regional and subregional efforts to promote a higher degree of openness and transparency in military matters, while taking into account the legitimate security interests of States.

For the Register to fulfil its potential, it is important not only to increase participation therein, but also to expand its scope. This goal has been reinforced by the increasing number of Governments voluntarily reporting on military holdings and procurement through national production. I encourage

Member States to continue to follow this promising trend. In this context, I hope Member States will give positive consideration to the recommendation contained in the Group's report that they should make public their information on military holdings and procurement through national production in the categories covered by the Register by including it in the annual consolidated report to the Register.

I also support the recommendation that a full review of the operation and further development of the Register should be conducted and that the General Assembly should decide at an early date on the appropriate timing for such reviews.

In its recommendations, the Group envisages a number of activities to be undertaken by the United Nations. I wish to emphasize that the Secretariat stands ready to provide all possible assistance in further promoting the aims of the Register, with a view to achieving universal participation in this important instrument.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Group of Governmental Experts for their work in preparing this report, which I commend to the General Assembly for its consideration.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

15 August 1997

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, which was convened by you in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 49/75 C of 15 December 1994, 50/70 D of 12 December 1995 and 51/45 H of 10 December 1996.

The governmental experts appointed were the following:

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The report was prepared between March and August 1997, during which the Group held three sessions in New York, the first from 3 to 7 March 1997, the second from 16 to 27 June 1997 and the third from 4 to 15 August 1997.

The members of the Group wish to express their appreciation for the assistance they received from members of the Secretariat of the United Nations. In particular, they wish to thank Mr. Prvoslav Davinic, Director, Centre for Disarmament Affairs, Mrs. Hannelore Hoppe, who served as Secretary of the Group, and Mr. Terence Taylor who served as consultant to the Group.

I have been requested by the Group of Experts, as its Chairman, to submit to you, on its behalf, the present report which was unanimously adopted.

(Signed) Rafael M. Grossi
Chairman of the Group of Governmental
Experts on the United Nations Register
of Conventional Arms

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Establishment of the Register

1. The General Assembly, by resolution 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, entitled "Transparency in armaments", requested the Secretary-General to establish and maintain at United Nations Headquarters the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and set out the arrangements for the consideration of its development. The Assembly called upon all Member States to provide annually for the Register data on imports and exports of conventional arms in the seven categories covered under the Register. The Assembly invited Member States, pending the expansion of the Register, also to provide to the Secretary-General, with their annual report on imports and exports of arms, available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies, and requested the Secretary-General to record that material and to make it available for consultation by Member States at their request.

2. In resolution 46/36 L, the Assembly recalled that the implementing of confidence-building measures, including transparency and exchange of relevant information on armaments, was likely to reduce the occurrence of dangerous misperceptions about the intentions of States and to promote trust among them. Furthermore, it considered that increased openness and transparency in the field of armaments could enhance confidence, ease tensions, strengthen regional and international peace and security and contribute to restraint in military production and the transfer of arms. The Assembly declared its determination to prevent the excessive and destabilizing accumulations of arms, including conventional arms, in order to promote stability and strengthen regional or international peace and security, taking into account the legitimate security needs of States and the principle of undiminished security at the lowest possible level of armaments.

B. Developments since 1991

1992 Panel

3. In accordance with Assembly resolution 46/36 L, the Secretary-General convened a panel of governmental technical experts in 1992. The tasks of the Panel were to assist the Secretary-General:

(a) To elaborate the technical procedures and to make any adjustments to the annex to resolution 46/36 L necessary for the effective operation of the Register;

(b) To prepare a report on the modalities for early expansion of the scope of the Register by the addition of further categories of equipment and the inclusion of data on military holdings and procurement through national production.

The Assembly, by resolution 47/52 L of 15 December 1992, endorsed the report of the Secretary-General containing the recommendations of the Panel (A/47/342), called upon all Member States to provide the requested data and information to the Secretary-General by 30 April annually, beginning in 1993, and encouraged Member States to inform the Secretary-General of their national arms import and export policies, legislation and administrative procedures, both as regards authorization of arms transfers and prevention of illicit transfers. in conformity with paragraph 18 of its resolution 46/36 L. Subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly reiterated that request.[1] The Panel also recommended that the consolidated annual report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the data registered and the available background information submitted by Member States be open to the public.

1994 Group of Governmental Experts

4. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 46/36 L, 47/52 L and 48/75 E of 16 December 1993, the 1994 Group of Governmental Experts was established to report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development. The report of the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Group (A/49/316) was taken note of by the Assembly in resolution 49/75 C of 15 December 1994. By the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to keep the scope of and participation in the Register under review and, to that end, requested Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction.

1997 Group of Governmental Experts

5. By resolution 51/45 H of 10 December 1996, the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be convened in 1997, to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, taking into account the report of the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 session on the subject of international arms transfers, the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the views expressed by Member States and the 1994 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, with a view to a decision at its fifty-second session.

6. Accordingly, the Group noted the work undertaken by the Disarmament Commission which had adopted, in 1996, guidelines for international arms transfers.[2] Among other things, the guidelines recommend that States institute national measures to prevent illicit trafficking in arms, including strengthening national laws and regulations and establishing effective import and export licensing procedures. The Group also took account of the views of Member States given in response to General Assembly resolutions 49/75 C, 50/70 D and 51/45 H, and which are contained in documents A/50/276 and Add.1, A/51/300 and Add.1-5 and A/52/312.

7. The 1997 Group of Governmental Experts took account of the reports of the 1992 Panel and the 1994 Group and the related General Assembly resolutions, as well as the current global and regional security situation, and reaffirmed the role of the Register as a confidence-building measure designed to improve

security relations among States. In that context, it was recalled that, by resolution 46/36 L, the Assembly considered that an enhanced level of transparency in armaments could contribute to confidence-building and security among States. The establishment of the Register, as part of a broader range of international efforts to promote transparency in military matters, was a step in that direction and could prevent an excessive and destabilizing accumulation of arms. The Group reaffirmed that participation in the Register is a means through which States can signal their preparedness to enter into dialogue with other States on this aspect of security policy. This can provide a valuable input into bilateral and regional dialogues on security concerns and the evolution of a more cooperative approach to security. In that context, the Group underlined that the Register is not a control mechanism but a confidence-building measure designed to improve security relations among States.

8. In considering the development of the Register, the Group took full account of the relationship between transparency and the security needs of States. With this requirement in view, the Group recognized that the Register should not be seen in isolation but be regarded as a confidence-building instrument which deals with a part of a wide spectrum of issues relating to weapons as well as aspects of regional and international security. Taking account of the views submitted by Member States to the Secretary-General, as called for in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, and those raised in its discussions, the Group observed that, notwithstanding that the Register deals with conventional weapons, the principle of transparency could also apply, in conjunction with other measures, to weapons of mass destruction and to transfers of high technology with military applications, as reflected in the provisions of various relevant legal instruments and in the founding resolution 46/36 L.

9. The Group also noted the work on small arms and light weapons carried out by the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms set up by the Secretary-General in accordance with Assembly resolution 50/70 B of 12 December 1995.

II. REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF THE REGISTER

A. General

10. In the course of its deliberations, the Group had at its disposal the data and information submitted by Governments for the Register by 15 August 1997 for the calendar years 1992 to 1996 inclusive. The Group also had before it the views of Member States on the operation of the Register, submitted in response to Assembly resolution 46/36 L and subsequent resolutions. In the light of this data and information, the Group reviewed the operation of the Register with a view to making recommendations for enhancing its operation and further development.

B. Extent of participation

11. The Group noted that in each of the four calendar years of operation of the Register over 90 Governments had submitted reports. The number of Governments submitting reports for the years 1992-1996 is:

1992	1993	1994	1995	1996 (As at 15 August 1997)
94	93	97	96	81

The Group was encouraged to note that the level of participation remained one of the highest compared with similar international reporting instruments, such as the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures. It was observed that not all Governments that had submitted reports had participated each year. The Group took account of the fact that, so far, 138 Governments had participated at least once by reporting. Of the 185 States Members of the United Nations, 49 had never submitted a report. Of the 49, at least 10 in each year were reported by other States as either an importer or an exporter.

12. In some cases, States not reporting did not possess the equipment covered by the seven categories in the Register. Nevertheless, it was noted that many States that had neither imported nor exported equipment covered by the Register, had submitted "nil" reports. The Group noted with satisfaction that this practice, which was an expression of support for the Register, had continued throughout the period under review. There remained, however, a number of States that had not yet participated in the Register by submitting a "nil" report.

13. Taking account of the need to enhance the utility of the Register, the Group was concerned that the goal of universal participation had not yet been reached but was encouraged by the trend in participation. The Group noted, however, that the level of reporting varied from region to region and that the pattern remained consistent throughout the reporting years. Participation by region, based on United Nations regional groupings, is as follows:

Region	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996 (As at 15 August 1997)
African States	12 of 51	13 of 52	10 of 53	9 of 53	7 of 53
Asian States	23 of 47	25 of 47	26 of 48	27 of 48	18 of 48
Eastern European States	14 of 19	13 of 20	15 of 21	16 of 21	13 of 21
Latin American and Caribbean States	17 of 33	15 of 33	18 of 33	14 of 33	13 of 33
Western European and Other States	24 of 24	24 of 27	25 of 27	26 of 27	26 of 27
Not Members of a regional group	3 of 5	2 of 5	2 of 3	2 of 3	2 of 3

It should be noted that the above table includes Member States only. Thus, the submissions of the Governments of Switzerland (an Observer State) and the Cook Islands are not included. In all other tables they are included.

C. Reports on exports and imports

14. The Group observed that the number of States reporting exports and imports remained stable throughout the period under review. The number of Governments reporting, including those which submitted "nil" reports on exports or imports, in the years 1992-1996 is as follows:

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996 (As at 15 August 1997)
Exports					
Transfers reported	24	24	22	22	25
"Nil" reports	53	59	68	64	51
Imports					
Transfers reported	38	31	42	43	36
"Nil" reports	47	57	50	52	41

15. It was noted that a number of States, reported as an exporter or importer by participating States, did not make any report for the Register. On average, 11 States fell into that category; they were not the same States in every year.

D. Reports on additional background information

16. The number of States reporting additional background information, in accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 46/36 L, has increased over the first five years of reporting with regard to information on procurement through national production and military holdings. Under the terms of the resolution, States are invited (rather than called upon which is the case for arms transfers) to provide such information. They can submit the information in any form they wish. With very few exceptions, participating States reported on the seven categories covered by the Register, providing information on procurement through national production and military holdings. Of the Governments that have reported, eight reported on weapons not within the categories covered by the Register. The Group observed that many States reported national policies only once and thereafter reported only changes or additions as they occurred. The overall pattern of reporting of available background information is as follows:

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996 (As at 15 August 1997)
Holdings	23	25	25	27	30
Procurement through national production	15	18	20	19	25
National policies	31	19	14	14	13

E. Assessment of reporting

17. In reviewing the first five calendar years of the operation of the Register, the Group welcomed the continuing commitment of States reporting to the Register on a regular basis. Continuity of reporting was important not only to preserve the relevance of the Register, but also to provide a basis for any analysis of trends over time. The Group considered, however, that gaining wider participation in the Register was of high importance. Over 90 Governments have reported to the Register for each of the years 1992 to 1995 inclusive, thus the information provided by both exporters and importers covers the bulk of the trade in the seven categories covered by the Register. While this level of reporting is higher than other comparable reporting instruments, such as the United Nations system of standardized reporting of military expenditures, universality of participation would greatly enhance the value of the Register as a confidence-building measure. The Group considered that non-participation by several States may be due to political and bureaucratic reasons. Also, some States may not be convinced that the Register alone was relevant to their security concerns. Other reasons for non-participation may be a lack of resources or awareness of the operation of the Register. It was also noted that in some cases armed conflict situations or severe political crises hampered reporting.

18. An assessment of the data on reporting indicates that, among the States that have yet to report to the Register, there is a significant number which may not have imported or exported equipment in the seven categories in the Register in the five years of reporting to date. The Group reaffirmed the value of participation by the submission of "nil" reports since such reports helped to complete the overall picture of arms transfers and are a valuable form of participation in the confidence-building process provided by the Register. The Group believed that every effort should be made to encourage States to participate in the Register by submitting a "nil" report if they have neither imported nor exported equipment in the Register categories during the calendar year subject to reporting.

19. The Group observed that many of the reports to the Register were being submitted long after the due date of 30 April each year. Some States found it difficult, because of their particular situations, to submit their reports by the due date. To assist those States to prepare accurate reports, the Group agreed that it would be helpful to change the annual reporting date from 30 April to 31 May. Nevertheless, the Group considered it important that States reported promptly in order to enable the annual consolidated report on the Register to be prepared as soon as possible after the due date and in good time for consideration by the General Assembly. At present, some transfers are not being reported until more than a year after the event. Prompt reporting would enhance transparency by shortening the time lag in making such data available to all Member States.

20. In analysing reporting, the Group noted significant variations among regions. These variations follow a consistent pattern which could be related to the reasons mentioned in paragraph 17 above.

21. While the failure to report one side of a transfer constituted the major discrepancy during the period under review, the Group observed that mismatches continued to occur on details of transfers, such as the number of items transferred, the date of the transfer and the type of equipment. The Group believed that among the reasons for discrepancies in reporting of transfers were a lack of knowledge and understanding of the Register and its procedures, and limited availability of resources. The Group, however, considered that an important reason for some of those discrepancies could be the lack of a common definition of a transfer. This not only led to differing interpretations of whether or not a transfer had taken place but also of the timing of a transfer. Agreement on a common definition is complicated by differing national practices regarding the implementation of rules, regulations and procedures for exports and imports. At present the description of a transfer, given in the report of the 1992 Panel and reaffirmed by the 1994 Group,[3] remains the guideline for reporting transfers.

22. The Group observed that the number of participating States using the "Remarks" column in the reporting format to provide designations and descriptions of equipment transferred had increased over the five years of reporting. The "Remarks" column was designed by the 1992 Panel[4] to aid the understanding of international transfers by providing the opportunity, if States so wished, to report the designation, type or model of the equipment being transferred. The 1992 Panel also recommended that this column could also be

used to provide additional clarification of transfers, such as if the equipment were obsolete or the result of co-production. The number of Governments using the "Remarks" column to indicate types and models in reporting exports and imports is as follows:

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996 (As at 15 August 1997)
Exporters	15 of 24	16 of 24	17 of 22	19 of 22	23 of 25
Importers	26 of 38	24 of 31	34 of 42	35 of 43	32 of 36

23. The Group reaffirmed the view that use of the "Remarks" column helped in understanding the data provided. Not only did such information aid clarity but it also added a qualitative element to reporting if the models and types of equipment being reported were shown.

24. With regard to reporting on available background information, the Group noted the increase in reporting, in accordance with Assembly resolution 46/36 L, on military holdings and procurement through national production. It also noted that the overwhelming majority of reports provided data on the seven categories of the Register. The Group took account of those voluntary practices and considered that further dissemination of the information would be useful.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGISTER

A. General

25. By resolution 46/36 L, the Assembly initiated the process for future expansion of the scope of the Register by the addition of further categories of equipment and the inclusion of data on military holdings and procurement through national production. Modalities for such expansion were considered by the 1992 Panel which presented its findings to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The question of further development of the Register was discussed extensively by the 1994 Group of Experts on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, but no agreement was reached on any of the proposals put forward. The 1994 Group proposed that the issue be kept under review.

26. In accordance with the mandate given by the Assembly in resolution 51/45 H and preceding resolutions, the 1997 Group examined various proposals to further develop the Register. Based on the premise that the objective must be to make the Register more efficient and effective, and to encourage wider participation, the Group discussed three different dimensions of the development of the Register:

(a) Adjustments and technical aspects of the categories of weapons covered by the Register, including the provision of qualitative information;

(b) Expansion of the scope to include data on military holdings and procurement through national production;

(c) Possible new categories and types.

27. In its consideration of adjustments and technical aspects of the categories covered by the Register, the Group studied the definitions of the existing seven categories to ascertain whether they still met the purpose of the Register. It also considered proposals for adding qualitative information in the reports on transfers.

28. As regards the expansion of the scope of the Register by including data on military holdings and procurement through national production, the Group noted that the Assembly, by resolution 46/36 L and succeeding resolutions, had reaffirmed its decision, with a view to future expansion of the Register, to keep the scope of and participation in the Register under review. The Group also noted that the 1994 Group of Experts had confirmed the goal of early expansion of the Register for that purpose. The Group considered a number of proposals and issues on reporting data and information on military holdings and procurement through national production.

29. In considering possible new categories and types, the Group discussed this issue in the context of both global and regional security concerns and the principle of transparency. Proposals and issues relating to weapons of mass destruction and the inclusion of small arms and light weapons were also considered.

B. Categories of weapons covered by the Register

Adjustments and technical aspects

30. Taking into account the findings of the review of the operation of the Register, the Group reviewed the present categories covered by the Register. The Group noted that, in general, the definitions of the categories of equipment were still satisfactory. The provision of qualitative information and adjustments in some of the categories were considered in order to determine whether such improvements could increase participation in the Register, as well as the value and clarity of the data and information being reported.

(a) Adjustments of categories

31. The Group studied the existing definitions of the categories of equipment (see appendix I) and analysed from a technical standpoint the following proposed adjustments:

(a) In category III, lowering the calibre of artillery systems from 100 millimetres to 75 millimetres;

(b) In category VI, lowering the tonnage of warships from 750 metric tonnes to 400 metric tonnes;

(c) In category VII, disaggregating missiles and missile launchers;

(d) In category VII, lowering the range of missiles from 25 kilometres to 10 kilometres and the inclusion of ground-to-air missiles.

The Group studied the implications of the proposed technical adjustments but could not reach agreement on such adjustments.

(b) Additional information on transfers

32. The "Remarks" column of the standardized reporting form was initially developed to offer Member States the opportunity to provide additional information on transfers, thus enhancing its qualitative aspect. As the provision of such information might be affected by security and other relevant concerns of Member States, the "Remarks" column was filled in at the discretion of a Member State. In 1992, no specific guidelines for providing such information were prescribed. The Group welcomed the increasing use of the "Remarks" column of the standardized reporting form to indicate designation, type or model of equipment in reporting exports and imports and expressed the hope that this trend would continue.

C. Expansion of the scope of the Register

33. By its resolution 46/36 L and subsequent resolutions, the General Assembly invited Member States, pending the expansion of the Register, also to provide to the Secretary-General, with their annual report on imports and exports of arms, available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies.

34. The Group observed that there had been an increase in reporting on military holdings and procurement through national production over the five years of reporting, with the majority of those Member States reporting providing their information based on the seven categories in the Register.

35. The Group reaffirmed the goal of an early expansion of the Register by the inclusion of data on military holdings and procurement through national production but could not reach agreement on such inclusion on the same basis as for transfers. The Group agreed that further consideration of this issue was required.

36. The Group studied the question of the technical and practical aspects linked to the terms "military holdings" and "procurement through national production" for the purpose of the Register. The Group held a preliminary discussion of various points which may be helpful in future consideration of the issue. With regard to military holdings, either within or outside the territory of a State, it studied, inter alia, the types of organizations holding equipment, as defined in the categories covered by the Register, such as regular or active forces; reserve forces; paramilitary forces, including elements such as gendarmerie, coast guard and border guards; government-owned storage facilities in varying states of readiness; and facilities conducting repairs, overhauls, refits or modernization. With regard to procurement through national

production, the Group considered equipment, as defined in the seven categories:

(a) Assembled in commercial or state-owned facilities, on the territory of the reporting State, and delivered to the Government or one of its agencies as a complete item;

(b) Acquired from both licensed production and assembly of kits on national territory;

(c) Upgraded at national facilities which then fall into the Register categories;

(d) Acquisition from international collaborative projects.

D. Possible new categories and types

37. With regard to possible new categories and types of equipment, no new categories of conventional weapons were proposed for inclusion in the Register. The question of the relationship between the existing categories and possible new categories of equipment of conventional arms, including light weapons and small arms, was discussed, as was how that relationship could be of relevance to the purpose of the Register. In this context, the Group noted the work done by the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms.

38. In the context of the question of transparency in armaments, the Group considered a proposal to add a new category to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms to include weapons of mass destruction. In its consideration of the proposal, the Group reviewed the nature of the Register, regional security concerns and the existing international legal instruments concerning the subject matter. The Group could not reach agreement on the proposal.

IV. REGIONAL ASPECTS

A. Overview

39. In resolution 46/36 L and subsequent resolutions, the General Assembly called upon Member States to cooperate at regional and subregional levels, taking fully into account the specific conditions prevailing in the regions or subregions, with a view to enhancing and coordinating international efforts aimed at increased openness and transparency in armaments.

40. As noted in chapter II above, the Group expressed concerns about the variation in the pattern of reporting among the regions. It welcomed the efforts made by regional organizations and arrangements, individual Member States and the United Nations Secretariat to promote participation in the Register. It believed that this effort should be continued in order to help achieve the ultimate goal of universal participation in the Register. It took account of the different conditions, recognizing that complementary confidence-building and security-building measures and other work to enhance security should take account of specific concerns and security perceptions. In that

context, the Group noted that other measures related to weapons and equipment not covered by the categories in the Register had particular importance in certain regions in ensuring that the whole spectrum of security concerns was taken into account, in particular in those regions in which the threat of military confrontation still exists. The Group noted that in certain instances the Register had a beneficial influence in stimulating activities in relation to confidence-building measures and discussions on regional security.

B. Support of the Register through regional arrangements and agencies

41. In the Asia and Pacific region, members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum agreed, at the Foreign Ministers meeting held at Jakarta on 23 July 1996, to work together to promote a higher level of participation in the Register. In particular, on a voluntary basis, they agreed to circulate to each other their reports to the Register at the time they are submitted.

42. The General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), in its resolution 1409 of 7 June 1996, requested the members of OAS to send their submissions to the Register also to the Secretary-General of OAS by 15 May each year. At its twenty-seventh regular session, the OAS General Assembly confirmed the consensus among member States on the implementation of confidence-building measures which included, in particular, transparency and exchange of information on arms, and called upon the Permanent Council to consider the desirability of approving a legal framework on the issue of advance notification of major arms acquisitions covered by the Register.

43. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in its principles governing conventional arms transfers agreed upon by the Forum for Security Cooperation on 16 July 1997 (FSC.DEC/13/97), called for support for and commitment to provide the data and information required by General Assembly resolution 46/36 L in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Register of Conventional Arms.

44. As expressed in its views to the Secretary-General on the continuing operation and further development of the Register (see A/52/312), States members of the European Union and associated countries continued to encourage all States Members of the United Nations to submit their national data to the Register.

45. Support for the Register has been promoted through the meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. The States members of the Advisory Committee further agreed to other complementary measures in the field of confidence-building and transparency, such as the monitoring of weapons acquisitions and transfers in Central Africa with a view to their control and reduction (see A/51/287). States of West Africa under the programme for coordination and assistance on disarmament and security are engaged in arms control and transparency measures with regard to the acquisition and transfer of conventional arms.

46. The General Assembly has also taken action relevant to the regional context. In resolution 51/50 of 10 December 1996 on strengthening security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region, the Assembly encouraged all States of the region to favour the necessary conditions for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters by, inter alia, providing accurate data and information to the Register. Similar encouragement had been called for by the Assembly in its resolutions 49/81 of 15 December 1994 and 50/75 of 12 December 1995.

C. Enhancing implementation at the regional level

47. The Group felt that regional and subregional efforts should be encouraged. They may pave the way towards a higher degree of openness, confidence and transparency in a region, thereby promoting greater participation in the Register. The Group also believed that such regional efforts should complement, and not detract from, the operation of the universal and global Register.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGISTER

A. Reporting methods

48. It was considered important to retain simplicity in the operation of the Register and to examine areas that would facilitate participation through clear procedures and understanding of definitions.

49. The Group observed that, for many States, national policies of relevance to the Register may not change every year. To add clarity to reporting on national policies in additional background information it may, however, be helpful if States indicated on the reporting form either "no change" or changes, if applicable. The Group considered, once a report had been made, only substantive changes to national policies of relevance to the Register should be reported.

B. Contacts among Member States

50. The Group believed that, in order to resolve possible discrepancies in the data submitted by exporters and importers, direct contacts to clarify matters were important. To that end, the Group considered that the appointment of an official, national point of contact would help to clarify misunderstanding. The point of contact could deal with queries arising from the report.

C. Access to data and information reported

51. The widest possible access by Member States to the data and information stored in the Register database is important in order to enhance the value of the Register as a tool to build confidence in security matters. This could be achieved in a number of ways, including the use of electronic means, as appropriate.

D. Role of the United Nations Secretariat

52. The Centre for Disarmament Affairs carries out the mandate assigned to the United Nations Secretariat, which is to:

(a) Compile information and data from the reports of Governments to the Register for the consolidated annual report submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly;

(b) Collate the available background information provided by Member States and compile an index;

(c) Maintain and operate an electronic database of the data and information provided to the Register.

The Group expressed satisfaction at the manner in which the Centre for Disarmament Affairs had carried out the mandate entrusted to the Secretariat. The Group noted the importance of the role of the Secretariat in giving advice to Member States, when requested, on technical aspects of completing reports to the Register and in clarifying technical ambiguities in reports submitted. To enhance participation, timely reporting to the Register as well as timely preparation of the annual consolidated report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, the Group believed that it was important that the Secretariat play a role in promoting awareness of the Register and the procedures for reporting. The Group also supported the efforts of the Secretariat to improve Government access to the Register through the use of modern means of communication. Improvement of public access, as appropriate, to the annual reports of the Secretary-General on the Register was also welcomed.

53. The Group commended the Centre for its efforts to organize and participate in a number of regional workshops undertaken with the support of Member States. Since 1993, such workshops had been held for States of the Asia-Oceania region, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. For States from Central Africa, a workshop was held at Brazzaville under the aegis of the Standing Advisory Committee for Security Questions in Central Africa in March 1995. In February 1996, a workshop on the Register for the Asia and Pacific region was held in conjunction with the eighth annual conference of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific at Kathmandu. At a special meeting held by the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the OAS Permanent Council in April 1996, the United Nations Secretariat provided advice on the reporting requirements to the Register. The Group underlined the value of the information material published by the Centre for Disarmament Affairs in order to promote understanding of the objectives and purposes of the Register and of the reporting requirements.

E. Future review of the Register

54. The Group considered it important that periodic reviews of the continuing operation of the Register and its further development be conducted. The Group recommended that the General Assembly decide at an early date on the appropriate time for such reviews.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusions

55. The Group concluded that the record of participation in the Register showed a consistent level of participation, with over 90 States reporting in each of the first four years. Nevertheless, there were wide variations in the levels of reporting among regions. To move towards the goal of universal participation, more Member States should be encouraged to participate on a regular basis. In particular, the Group reaffirmed the importance of participation in the Register through the provision of "nil" reports, where applicable. The Group concluded that such reporting was important in order to provide as complete a picture as possible of the transactions in equipment covered by the Register.

56. Noting the increasing number of States indicating designations, models or types in reporting transfers of equipment, the Group concluded that the reports containing this information added qualitatively to the data and information in the Register and encouraged States in a position to do so to provide such information.

57. Having studied the implications of possible technical adjustments to the existing categories of the Register, the Group could not reach agreement on such adjustments.

58. Taking account of the security situation in the various regions, the Group considered the expansion of the scope of the Register to include the reporting of military holdings and procurement through national production, at the same level of commitment as transfers, but could not reach agreement. Nevertheless, the Group reaffirmed the goal of early expansion of the Register and welcomed the increasing number of States voluntarily reporting on military holdings and procurement through national production.

59. After consideration of all proposals for possible new categories and types to be added to the Register, the Group could not reach agreement on those proposals.

60. To assist States in the preparation of accurate reports to the Register, the Group concluded that the due date for reporting each year should be changed from 30 April to 31 May. The Group, however, stressed the importance of prompt reporting in order to facilitate early dissemination of the data and information for Governments and in particular in time for submission to the General Assembly.

61. As a contribution towards the goal of universal participation, the Group concluded that the promotion of understanding of the Register should be maintained and, where possible, increased. The Group considered that such efforts could be conducted by Member States individually, or collectively through regional arrangements and agencies.

62. To assist in achieving more efficient reporting, and to help in clarification of submissions, the Group concluded that Member States should designate an official point of contact for Governments on matters directly

relating to reporting to the Register. To facilitate the clarity of submissions, Member States should be encouraged to explain their national criteria for defining a transfer in their annual reports. If they have voluntarily supplied information on national policies, the Group believed that it would be helpful if reporting States indicated in subsequent reports whether or not there has been a significant change in these policies. It also concluded that the role of the United Nations Secretariat in the dissemination of knowledge and operation of the Register should continue to be supported.

63. In order to further develop the Register, as called for in Assembly resolution 46/36 L and subsequent resolutions, the Group concluded that a further comprehensive review, at an appropriate time, of the operation of the Register will be needed.

B. Recommendations

64. The Group recommends that:

(a) Member States participate in the Register with a view to achieving the shared goal of universal participation in this instrument;

(b) Member States be reminded of the importance of participating in the Register, both in reporting data and information and in making "nil" reports on exports and imports;

(c) Member States nominate a national point of contact for matters connected with the Register and that details on the contact point be sent with the annual report on the understanding that this information will be held by the Secretariat and provided on request to Governments only; furthermore, the Secretariat should maintain an updated list of national points of contact and circulate it to all Member States;

(d) The annual due date for reporting be changed from 30 April to 31 May but that Member States should be encouraged to report promptly in order to help ensure the early dissemination to Governments of the data and information in the reports;

(e) The existing reporting format and explanatory notes continue to be used but amended to take account of the recommendation in subparagraph (c) above, to note the national definitions of a transfer and to indicate changes in national policies, as shown in appendix II;

(f) Member States in a position to do so should make use of the "Remarks" column in the standardized reporting form to provide additional information, such as types or models;

(g) The General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure sufficient resources are made available to operate and maintain the Register and to:

(i) Make every effort to assist Governments with timely reporting and to improve access by Governments to the data and information provided to the Register;

(ii) Send annually notes to Member States encouraging them to participate in the Register and to provide any other additional information, as required;

(iii) Continue to provide to the General Assembly the annual consolidated report of data and information registered, including that provided on a voluntary basis on military holdings and procurement through national production, together with an index of other additional background information. States providing data on military holdings and procurement through national production may request that this data not be published;

(iv) Organize seminars and workshops, with the support of Member States, to promote understanding of the Register;

(v) When requested, support regional efforts with advice and expertise to promote participation in the Register;

(vi) Update and add to existing material on all aspects of the operation of the Register and to ensure its widest possible dissemination;

(vii) Conduct informal briefing meetings in conjunction with the meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly in order to promote understanding of the Register's reporting procedures;

(viii) Send complete sets of returns to the Government of each Member State;

(ix) Establish a more visible icon on the Register in the existing United Nations homepage.

(h) The General Assembly decide on the appropriate time to conduct a full review of the continuing operation of the Register and its further development at an early date.

Notes

[1] Resolutions 48/75 E of 16 December 1993 and 49/75 C of 15 December 1994.

[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/51/42), annex I.

[3] See A/49/316, annex, para. 42.

[4] See A/47/342, annex, para. 19.

APPENDIX I

Categories of equipment and their definitions

I. Battle tanks

Tracked or wheeled self-propelled armoured fighting vehicles with high cross-country mobility and a high level of self-protection, weighing at least 16.5 metric tonnes unladen weight, with a high muzzle velocity direct fire main gun of at least 75 millimetres calibre.

II. Armoured combat vehicles

Tracked, semi-tracked or wheeled self-propelled vehicles, with armoured protection and cross-country capability, either: (a) designed and equipped to transport a squad of four or more infantrymen, or (b) armed with an integral or organic weapon of at least 12.5 millimetres calibre or a missile launcher.

III. Large-calibre artillery systems

Guns, howitzers, artillery pieces, combining the characteristics of a gun or a howitzer, mortars or multiple-launch rocket systems, capable of engaging surface targets by delivering primarily indirect fire, with a calibre of 100 millimetres and above.

IV. Combat aircraft

Fixed-wing or variable-geometry wing aircraft designed, equipped or modified to engage targets by employing guided missiles, unguided rockets, bombs, guns, cannons, or other weapons of destruction, including versions of these aircraft which perform specialized electronic warfare, suppression of air defence or reconnaissance missions. The term "combat aircraft" does not include primary trainer aircraft, unless designed, equipped or modified as described above.

V. Attack helicopters

Rotary-wing aircraft designed, equipped or modified to engage targets by employing guided or unguided anti-armour, air-to-surface, air-to-subsurface, or air-to-air weapons and equipped with an integrated fire control and aiming system for these weapons, including versions of these aircraft which perform specialized reconnaissance or electronic warfare missions.

VI. Warships

Vessels or submarines armed and equipped for military use with a standard displacement of 750 metric tonnes or above, and those with a standard displacement of less than 750 metric tonnes, equipped for launching missiles with a range of at least 25 kilometres or torpedoes with similar range.

VII. Missiles and missile launchers

Guided or unguided rockets, ballistic or cruise missiles capable of delivering a warhead or weapon of destruction to a range of at least 25 kilometres, and means designed or modified specifically for launching such missiles or rockets, if not covered by categories I through VI. For the purpose of the Register, this category:

(a) Also includes remotely piloted vehicles with the characteristics for missiles as defined above;

(b) Does not include ground-to-air missiles.

APPENDIX II

Reporting forms

ANNEX 1

Standardized form for reporting international transfers of conventional arms (exports)[a]

EXPORTS
Report of international conventional arms transfers
(according to United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/36 L)

Reporting country:_____

National point of contact:_____
(Organization, telephone, fax) (FOR GOVERNMENTAL USE ONLY)

Calendar year:_____

A	B	C	D[b]	E[b]	REMARKS[c]	
Category (I-VII)	Final importer State(s)	Number of items	State of origin (if not exporter)	Intermediate location (if any)	Description of item	Comments on the transfer
I. Battle tanks						
II. Armoured combat vehicles						
III. Large-calibre artillery systems						
IV. Combat aircraft						
V. Attack helicopters						
VI. Warships						
VII. Missiles and missile launchers[f]						

National criteria on transfers:_____

[a] [b] [c] [f] See explanatory notes.

The nature of information provided should be indicated in accordance with explanatory notes e and f.

/...

Explanatory notes

[a] Member States that do not have anything to report should file a "nil" report clearly stating that no exports or imports have taken place in any of the categories during the reporting period.

[b] International arms transfers involve, in addition to the physical movement of equipment into or from national territory, the transfer of title to and control over the equipment. Member States are invited to provide with their return a concise explanation of national criteria used to determine when an arms transfer becomes effective. (See paragraph 42 of the annex to document A/49/316.)

[c] In the "Remarks" column Member States may wish to describe the item transferred by entering the designation, type, model or any other information considered relevant. Member States may also wish to use the "Remarks" column to explain or clarify aspects relevant to the transfer.

[d] Multiple-launch rocket systems are covered by the definition of category III. Rockets qualifying for registration are covered under category VII. (See appendix I.)

[e] Check any of the following provided as part of your submission:

		Check
(i)	Annual report on exports of arms	-
(ii)	Annual report on imports of arms	-
(iii)	Available background information on military holdings	-
(iv)	Available background information on procurement through national production	-
(v)	Available background information on relevant policies and/or national legislation	-
(vi)	Other (please describe)	-

[f] When reporting transfers, which of the following criteria, drawn from paragraph 42 of the annex to document A/49/316, were used:

		Check
(i)	Departure of equipment from the exporter's territory	-
(ii)	Arrival of equipment in the importer's territory	-
(iii)	Transfer of title	-
(iv)	Transfer of control	-
(v)	Others (please provide brief description below)	-

ANNEX 2

Standardized form for reporting international transfers of conventional arms (imports)[a]

IMPORTS
Report of international conventional arms transfers
(according to United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/36 L)

Reporting country: _____

National point of contact: _____
(Organization, telephone, fax) (FOR GOVERNMENTAL USE ONLY)

Calendar year: _____

A	B	C	D[b]	E[b]	REMARKS[c]	
Category (I-VII)	Exporter State(s)	Number of items	State of origin (if not exporter)	Intermediate location (if any)	Description of item	Comments on the transfer
I. Battle tanks						
II. Armoured combat vehicles						
III. Large-calibre artillery systems						
IV. Combat aircraft						
V. Attack helicopters						
VI. Warships						
VII. Missiles and missile launchers[f]						

National criteria on transfers: _____

[a] [b] [c] See explanatory notes.

The nature of information provided should be indicated in accordance with explanatory notes e and f.

Explanatory notes

[a] Member States that do not have anything to report should file a "nil report" clearly stating that no exports or imports have taken place in any of the categories during the reporting period.

[b] International arms transfers involve, in addition to the physical movement of equipment into or from national territory, the transfer of title to and control over the equipment. Member States are invited to provide with their return a concise explanation of national criteria used to determine when an arms transfer becomes effective. (See paragraph 42 of the annex to document A/49/316.)

[c] In the "Remarks" column Member States may wish to describe the item transferred by entering the designation, type, model or any other information considered relevant. Member States may also wish to use the "Remarks" column to explain or clarify aspects relevant to the transfer.

[d] Multiple-launch rocket systems are covered by the definition of category III. Rockets qualifying for registration are covered under category VII. (See appendix I.)

[e] Check any of the following provided as part of your submission:

		Check
(i)	Annual report on exports of arms	-
(ii)	Annual report on imports of arms	-
(iii)	Available background information on military holdings	-
(iv)	Available background information on procurement through national production	-
(v)	Available background information on relevant policies and/or national legislation	-
(vi)	Other (please describe)	-

[f] When reporting transfers, which of the following criteria, drawn from paragraph 42 of the annex to document A/49/316, were used:

(i)	Departure of equipment from the exporter's territory	-
(ii)	Arrival of equipment in the importer's territory	-
(iii)	Transfer of title	-
(iv)	Transfer of control	-
(v)	Others (please provide brief description below)	-

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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 51/209 of 17 December 1996, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the views expressed and the practical suggestions made during the debate held within the framework of the Sixth Committee, to expedite the preparation and publication of supplements to the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council and to submit a progress report on the matter to the Assembly before its fifty-second session.

2. General information regarding the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and the Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council, their origins and history, the arrangements for their preparation and publication and their current status may be found in the note which the Secretariat prepared in order to facilitate consideration of the status of those publications by the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization pursuant to paragraph 4 (f) of General Assembly resolution 50/52 of 11 December 1995.[1]

II. REPERTORY OF PRACTICE OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANS

A. Steps taken by the Secretariat to expedite the preparation of supplements to the Repertory

3. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 51/209, the Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory was convened. The Committee is composed of representatives of all of the Secretariat units involved in the production of supplements to the Repertory and is responsible for directing and overseeing the preparation and publication of those supplements. The Committee made a detailed examination of ways to eliminate the existing backlog in the production of supplements to the Repertory and of possible means of placing the production of the publication on a basis which would ensure its regular and timely appearance in the future. It also gave consideration to a number of matters with a view to coordinating action for the production of supplements to the Repertory.

4. On the basis of the Committee's recommendations, the following steps have been taken.

1. Allocation of Repertory studies to Secretariat units

5. Responsibility for the preparation of draft studies on the provisions of the Charter has been distributed and assigned among Secretariat units, taking into account the changes occurring in the Secretariat (see annex I to the present report). In cases in which more than one Secretariat unit is responsible for preparing a study, one of the Secretariat units concerned has been assigned as bearing primary responsibility for its preparation.

2. Simplification of the format of Repertory studies

6. During the debate which took place in 1996 within the framework of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, the suggestion was made that, in order to facilitate the more expeditious preparation and publication of supplements to the Repertory, the format of the studies which appeared in those supplements might profitably be simplified.[2]

7. In order to ensure that the practice of United Nations organs is presented in the manner most apt to assist the reader in acquiring a better understanding of the Charter, the format of individual studies necessarily varies from one study to the next in the light of the widely differing characteristics of the Charter provisions concerned and of the practice relating to them. Accordingly, a particular simplification which might be advantageously made to the format of one study is not necessarily appropriate for another and may not necessarily expedite work on the publication.

8. That being so, it has been decided that a flexible approach should be adopted to the simplification of the format of Repertory studies. Each Secretariat unit is in the process of examining those particular studies for the preparation of which it is responsible and of identifying, in the light of the circumstances surrounding each study, any ways in which its format might advantageously be changed with a view to facilitating its expeditious preparation. Any alterations which it is proposed to make as a result of this review are to be reported to the Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory for its approval.

3. Consideration of alternative methods for preparing and publishing supplements to the Repertory

9. In view of the problems affecting the method which has hitherto been employed for producing supplements to the Repertory, it was thought appropriate that the method be subjected to a thorough review and that consideration be given to its modification or replacement. As a result of this review, it has been decided that a new method should be adopted for organizing the publication's production.

10. Under this new method, there will be a fixed or permanent subdivision of supplements into volumes based on the structure of the Charter and/or United Nations organs. The responsibility for coordinating the production of each volume of a supplement, in terms of arranging for and securing the submission of drafts of the studies of which it is composed and organizing its publication once those studies have been approved, is devolved to the Secretariat unit which is most directly concerned with that volume's subject matter and which is responsible for most of its content. The particular Secretariat unit which is to be responsible for coordinating the production of each volume of a supplement is identified in annex II to the present report.

11. By decentralizing a large part of the responsibility for managing the production of supplements to the Repertory and allocating it on a volume-

by-volume basis, corresponding generally to the principal organs of the United Nations, the new method should reduce the problems involved in coordinating the work of the many Secretariat units which have roles to play in that undertaking. Since the number of Secretariat units involved in the preparation of any one volume is quite limited, it should be a less difficult task for the department or office which is responsible for a volume to coordinate work on its production than it would, were responsibility for the preparation and publication of all of the volumes of a supplement to be concentrated, as hitherto, in a single office or Secretariat unit.

12. Moreover, since responsibility for coordinating the production of each volume will be located in the department or office which is most substantially and directly involved in that volume's preparation, the efficiency of the process of preparing supplements to the Repertory will be enhanced and the accountability of the various departments and offices involved in that work will be increased.

13. The second major feature of the new method is that draft studies are subjected to but a single review. Under the method which has hitherto been employed for producing supplements to the Repertory, each and every draft study, once completed, was sent to the Office of Legal Affairs for a preliminary review. Once this process was complete, the Office of Legal Affairs had to conduct a still further review of the draft study, in its capacity as the leading member of the Interdepartmental Committee's Review Committee. This procedure involved a needless and wasteful replication of effort. It has accordingly been decided that, henceforth, draft studies should be submitted directly to the Interdepartmental Committee's Review Committee for review and final approval, without being first subject to any preliminary review. The leading role which the Office of Legal Affairs will continue to play in that Committee, both as one of its members and as its chair, should be sufficient to ensure that studies continue to exhibit the accuracy and to possess the content and level of analysis which are appropriate to a legal publication. The Office of Legal Affairs will also remain available to give advice and assistance to other Secretariat units in preparing the draft studies assigned to them.

4. Schedule for production of supplements to the Repertory

14. The last supplement to the Repertory, of which volumes 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been published - Supplement No. 5 - covers the practice of United Nations organs occurring in the period from 1 January 1970 to 31 December 1978.

15. The time periods which are to be covered in the supplements which are still outstanding are as follows:

Supplement No. 6	1 January 1979 to 31 December 1984
Supplement No. 7	1 January 1985 to 31 December 1989
Supplement No. 8	1 January 1990 to 31 December 1994

16. It is intended that the next supplement to be prepared and published be Supplement No. 6. However, in the case of volumes 3 and 4 of Supplement No. 5, which are still to appear, it is intended for these volumes to be prepared first, before work commences on the parallel volumes of Supplement No. 6.

17. It is expected that final editing of the studies which make up volume 5 of Supplement No. 6, covering the practice pertaining to Articles 92 to 111 of the Charter, will be completed by the summer of 1998 and that the volume will be published by the end of that year.

18. Depending upon the identification of appropriate resources, it is anticipated that volumes 3 (Articles 55-72) and 4 (Articles 73-91) of Supplement No. 5 will be published by the end of 1999.

19. However, it has not otherwise been possible to establish a timetable for the production of the outstanding supplements to the Repertory. Alluding to the considerations which are mentioned in section B of the present report, most Secretariat units are of the view that, until such time as additional human and financial resources might be made available to them for the purpose of undertaking work on the Repertory, their circumstances are such that it is unlikely that they will be able to undertake sustained work on the project.

B. Assessment of the work required

20. The tasks to be performed by the various Secretariat units responsible for the preparation of Repertory studies generally consist in: planning and supervision; research; drafting of initial studies; revising completed drafts; obtaining clearance within the author department or office and approval from the Interdepartmental Committee; and editing and processing consultations. The work of those units concerned exclusively with the processing of completed Repertory studies comprises editing, translating, indexing and printing individual supplement volumes.

21. In order to assess the human and financial resources required, Secretariat units have made tentative estimates, drawing on past experience, of the volume of work involved in the execution of the above-mentioned tasks for the Repertory studies assigned to them. These estimates range from two to nine work-months per study, depending on the particular study concerned, its complexity and the extent and the nature of the practice which need to be analysed. With 135 Repertory studies to be prepared for each supplement, work on the Repertory is therefore extremely demanding and resource-consuming. In this connection, it should be noted that in recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of agenda items and in the overall activities of the General Assembly, the Security Council and their subsidiary organs and consequently in the amount of material to be reviewed and analysed.[3]

22. The fundamental problem affecting the preparation and production of supplements to the Repertory is that work on the Repertory has been treated as an activity which should be carried out within existing resources. However, the resource requirements for that work are such that most of the Secretariat units concerned find it increasingly difficult to prepare Repertory studies at the

pace and in the manner required by Member States. This problem has become even more serious in recent years with staff reductions and budget cuts, together with a significant increase in the workload of the Secretariat units concerned, the result of which has been that those units have only been able to address the more urgent deadlines.

23. Furthermore, given the need to implement mandated activities within the resources available for the Secretariat units, the flexibility to modify the programme of work to accommodate the preparation of the Repertory is limited.

24. As regards future planning, with a view to ensuring that work on the Repertory continues to be supported with adequate resources, Repertory-related tasks will be included as distinct activities within future programme budgets of the Secretariat units concerned.

C. Consideration of other measures to facilitate the production of supplements to the Repertory

25. While it is essential to secure the basic resource allocations for work on the Repertory, consideration has been given to other measures which might go some way towards facilitating the implementation of the work, taking into account the suggestions made by Member States.

1. Reallocation of staff

26. The special programme initiated in 1996 for the redeployment[4] of staff against available vacancies[5] has been completed and all "redeployed staff" under that programme have been placed. This avenue is accordingly no longer available to the Secretariat units concerned as a means to obtain staff support for the preparation of Repertory studies.

27. As regards the reallocation of staff resources to Repertory functions, there are four principal methods by which staff resources within the Secretariat might be reallocated: transfer, reassignment, temporary assignment to a post and temporary assignment with post. Given the scarcity of funded posts currently available in the Secretariat, the first three methods, which presuppose the existence of a post to which a staff member may be transferred, reassigned or assigned on a temporary basis, are simply not available as viable options. A temporary assignment with post, the last of the methods referred to above, is not precluded by this factor. However, various Secretariat units are of the view that, even such borrowing of posts, whether within the same department or office or from a different department or office, is not a practicable option, owing to the expanding workload of the departments and offices concerned, coupled with the staff and budget reductions.

2. Recourse to interns

28. While the assistance of interns is surely of some value, reliance on them has certain limitations. Interns need to be trained, directed and supervised

throughout the period of their service and their work thoroughly reviewed. A substantial amount of staff time is accordingly required to ensure their efficient and meaningful use. Recourse to interns cannot make up for the lack of regular staff.

29. Under the United Nations Internship Programme, interns are, in principle, not to be assigned to any tasks which are part of the regular activities of staff members. Their period of service is in principle limited to two months and is extended to three months only in exceptional cases. The experience of those Secretariat units which have already made significant use of interns for the preparation of Repertory studies is that a substantial amount of training is required to enable them to make a useful contribution to the work in hand. Such training is time-consuming and tends generally only to produce results after one or two months, by which time the period of internship is almost at an end. Furthermore, applicants for the Programme must be students who are currently enrolled in a degree-granting programme in a graduate school. Thus, those who have completed their academic studies cannot be engaged under the United Nations Internship Programme, even if they are interested in working as interns.

30. In order to overcome these difficulties, steps have been initiated with a view to establishing a special internship programme for the preparation of Repertory studies, under which the services of young jurists as well as students may be engaged for periods beyond the standard two to three months.[6]

3. Soliciting human and financial resources from outside institutions

31. Activities approved by the General Assembly should be adequately funded by the regular budget. This basic principle should be observed with regard to the production of Repertory supplements just as much as in the case of any other mandated activity of the Organization. At the same time, because of the budgetary constraints, it may be necessary to identify appropriate resources to support the preparation of the Repertory.

32. It will not be possible to accept the services of gratis personnel[7] to assist in the preparation of supplements to the Repertory, given the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997, that the Secretary-General can accept gratis personnel only in the following circumstances:

(a) After the approval of the budget, to provide expertise not available within the Organization for very specialized functions, as identified by the Secretary-General, and for a limited and specified time; and

(b) To provide temporary and urgent assistance in the case of new and/or expanded mandates of the Organization, pending a decision by the General Assembly on the level of resources required to implement those mandates.

4. Use of new technology

33. For the purpose of preparing Repertory studies, there are certain electronic resources available for conducting searches of the Organization's documentation. These include the Internet, the optical disk system (ODS) and the United Nations Bibliographic Information System (UNBIS), together with its by-product UNBIS Plus on CD-ROM. UNBIS provides access to the documentation and proceedings of the major organs of the Organization. Both the ODS and the Internet provide the full texts of parliamentary documents.

34. The Internet provides access only to a selection of United Nations documents, with a full-text search facility for Security Council resolutions from 1994 onwards. Full documentation is available on the ODS from 1993 onwards only. Official documents from prior years are limited to imaged versions of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council. As a result, most of the research which would be required to eliminate the backlog in the production of supplements to the Repertory needs to be carried out by conventional methods. Under these circumstances, electronic resources will not, at least for the present, significantly facilitate the preparation of Repertory studies.

5. Assistance in editing, printing and indexing

35. The Department for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services is prepared to provide services for editing, translating, desktop publishing and proofreading, as well as for printing and distribution. The editorial services to be provided by the Department will be limited to ensuring compliance with basic United Nations editorial principles. Accuracy of the information to be published in the Repertory, including bibliographic references and quotations, will be the responsibility of the authors of individual studies.

36. As regards printing, provision has also been made in the proposed programme budget of the Office of Legal Affairs for 1998-1999 for the printing of supplements to the Repertory, if that proves necessary.

37. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library is able to provide some research assistance and to undertake the back-of-the-book indexing for the Repertory, provided that additional human resources are made available for the performance of this extremely time-consuming task.

III. REPERTOIRE OF PRACTICE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

A. Status of the Repertoire

38. The Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council is prepared by the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch of the Department of Political Affairs. Despite the lack of improvement in staff resources, work on the tenth Supplement covering the period 1985-1988 is progressing. Eleven of the 12 chapters have been completed and the draft will be submitted for technical editing and production in October 1997. Further, for the subsequent

period, 1989-1992, a preparatory study has been carried out by a consultant and work has already begun on some of the chapters.

B. Background study on the practice of the Security Council (1989-1992)

39. The next, eleventh, Supplement to the Repertoire will cover the period in which the Security Council, in response to changes and new challenges on the international scene, resorted to various innovative practices in the conduct of its work. It was felt that the reflection of new dimensions in the application of the Charter in such areas as preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peace enforcement, humanitarian intervention and electoral assistance, as well as the presentation of such aspects as more frequent resort to informal consultations and the brevity or infrequency of open debates, inter alia, will require special treatment.

40. A background study has been undertaken by a consultant with a view to identifying the major areas of the Security Council's practices and procedures, as well as the incidents and cases that require special attention or are likely to present difficulties in preparing the substantive and analytical account of these procedures and practices within the traditional format of the Repertoire. In his study the consultant outlines the major international events of the period and their effect on the performance of the Council. In the area of the maintenance of international peace and security, the study describes certain issues related to the authorized use of force, human rights and international terrorism; it also draws attention to the issues related to membership and some aspects of the relations of the Security Council with other United Nations organs and international organizations; it gives orientation or concrete recommendations on the possible approach to them. The Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch worked closely with the consultant to define the way in which the sensitive areas might be presented in the Repertoire.

C. English and French indexing

41. The printing of the eighth and ninth supplements in French has been delayed owing to the absence of indexes. Under the past and still existing arrangements, the indexing of the original in English and of the French translation was done by the Department of Political Affairs in view of its complexity and to ensure that the potential issues of legal and political interest are taken into account.

D. Suggestions of Member States

42. Taking into account the explicit intention of Member States to have the Repertoire updated and having in mind the general goal of the Organization for greater efficiency, the Department of Political Affairs explored various ways of reconciling these two objectives. The suggestions made in the course of deliberations in the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and

on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization provided a framework for this exercise.[8]

1. Reallocation of staff

43. The reallocation of staff from other areas of the Department of Political Affairs to the preparation of the Repertoire as suggested by Member States has not materialized owing to the expanding workload of the Department as a whole coupled with the process of downsizing which it has undergone. In view of the forthcoming reduction of staff, it would seem that reallocation of staff within the department would not be feasible. Note should also be taken of the fact that with its present resources, the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch would not be able to work simultaneously on the Repertoire and the Repertory.

2. Revision of the format and elimination of duplication between the Repertory and the Repertoire

44. In response to the request of Member States to eliminate any duplication between the two publications, a detailed comparison of the contents of the Repertoire and the Repertory has been carried out in order to determine the extent of duplication as well as the complementarity between them. An analytical account of the practices of the Security Council is presented in both the Repertoire and the Repertory albeit in a somewhat different manner. The structure, the tables of contents, the actual texts of the chapters and case studies and the tabulations were compared. This comparison showed that as both publications are organized along the lines of the Charter of the United Nations and use the same basic information, the material presented in them is virtually identical. This is true concerning both textual parts and tabulations for all the chapters and entries, as can be seen from annex III to the present report. The significant exception is chapter VIII, part II of the Repertoire, which presents in chronological order the outlines of the issues and the summaries of the deliberations in the Security Council. It constitutes a substantial part of the Repertoire, but is not found in the Repertory. The Repertory, for its part, reflects the material generated by the General Assembly as well as by the Security Council. In order to eliminate duplication between the two publications, the Department of Political Affairs examined the possibility of merging them into one while retaining all the information found in each of them, through the incorporation of the summaries in the unified volume at an appropriate place. This merger would give the users a complete presentation of all the information on the practices of the Security Council found in the two publications.

45. The merged publication, if accepted, could become an integral part of the multi-volume Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs, as Volume III (Articles 23 to 54 and 106-107), Security Council. Such a move would lead in the future to potential savings of time and resources. In the meantime, special consideration needs to be given to the coverage of the period from 1979 to 1988 for which supplements to the Repertoire have already been published. One of the options would be to make a special cross-reference to the already existing

supplements of the Repertoire for the period in question, instead of preparing a volume dealing with Articles 23 to 54 for Supplements Nos. 6 and 7 of the Repertory. In this case, a special complementary volume might be needed to provide the information on the decisions of the General Assembly and its Main Committees related to the Security Council. This volume, while a truncated one, would need careful preparation. Another option would be still to produce the full-fleshed supplements of the Repertory which encompass the period 1979-1988 in order to preserve the integrity of the publication. The Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch which is now working on the 1989-1992 Supplement of the Repertoire, would accordingly have to convert it into the new merged format. This would require adjustment to the new method, as well as special efforts, taking into account the complexity of the period.

46. While elimination of duplication in the two publications through their merger into one from the period starting in 1989 will in the long run expedite the release of this valuable research tool, closing the gap will require a short-term investment of resources.

3. Recourse to interns

47. The use of interns, as recommended by Member States, is viewed by the Department of Political Affairs as an important source which can potentially provide substantial assistance in the preparation of the Repertoire. As in the case of the use of interns for the Repertory, steps have been initiated with a view to establishing a special programme for the preparation of the Repertoire, under which the services of young jurists and students may be engaged for periods beyond the standard two to three months.

48. As was pointed out above in connection with the Repertory,[9] the use of interns, helpful as it may be, can be really efficient only with proper training and supervision provided by the regular Professional staff.

4. Soliciting human and financial resources from outside institutions

49. As is the case with the preparation of the Repertory, it may be necessary to identify appropriate resources to support the preparation of the Repertoire. It will not be possible to accept the services of gratis personnel, given the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 51/243 (see para. 32 above).

5. Use of new technology

50. The Department of Political Affairs and its Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch have upgraded their equipment and already have electronic access to documentation where it exists; they continue to create links to databases within the Department and the Secretariat as a whole. In addition, the Branch is developing its own databases to assist it in the research process both for the preparation of the Repertoire (and the Repertory) and for responding to requests. The Branch is improving its system for informal

codification of the Security Council activities and procedures to be used for the preparation of the eleventh Supplement of the Repertoire (1989-1992). The common optical disk system (ODS), containing the documents beginning from 1993, will definitely be useful for the preparation of future supplements.

51. The Branch, in consultation with the computer specialist of the Department of Political Affairs, initiated contacts with the Sales and Marketing Section of the Office for Communications and Public Information, concerning the conversion of the original and consequent supplements of the Repertoire (or the Repertory) into electronic form, which would make it an easily searchable database. The volumes existing only in hard copy have to be scanned by the ODS; Supplement No. 10, which already exists in electronic form, can be reproduced from diskettes. The cost of the project could be borne by the Applications Development Service, which is in charge of ODS. Furthermore, having the Repertoire (or the Repertory) transferred into electronic form will permit its production as a CD-ROM. This might require some initial investment but will generate considerable profit from sales.

52. Apart from the possibility and the advantages of converting the Repertoire into electronic form, it would also be advisable to reissue the hard copies, including the original and all the supplements. Selective market analysis has shown that these are out of stock and that the Repertoire is likely to attract interest if available as a set (1945 to present).

E. Estimates of work-months requirements for the Repertoire

53. It has to be spelled out clearly that, under the existing arrangements, the Department of Political Affairs is the only department that has responsibility for both the Repertoire and Repertory.[10] Both publications are produced on a regular basis, and both of these mandated activities require more or less stable teams of core staff assigned to each of them. The elimination of backlogs for the Repertoire and the Repertory should be viewed as separate assignments, and until the gap is closed, temporary arrangements would be needed for both publications. In case the decision is taken by Member States to merge the Repertoire with the volume of the Repertory dealing with the Security Council (Articles 22 to 54), beginning with 1989, temporary assistance would still be necessary to make adjustments for the period from 1979 to 1988. On the basis of past experience, approximately 144 Professional work-months for 6 Professional staff and 72 work-months for support staff would be required.

54. The experience with consultancies in connection with certain aspects of the preparation of the Repertoire proved to be beneficial and the Department intends to continue to use this source of assistance to the extent possible.

55. The forthcoming supplements will be, understandably, more complex and voluminous. The use of technology or a change in methodology can help to expedite their production but cannot substitute for the intellectual component of the work: the task of reading, appraising, analysing and interpreting the information as well as drafting, which has to be performed by qualified Professionals. Therefore, the expectations with respect to the estimated timing

of their preparation and release should be realistically based on the resource capacity of the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch.

56. The Repertoire, as well as the Repertory, is considered a consolidated record of the evidence of international law in a readily available form and a valuable document representing the institutional memory for the activities of the Security Council. It also contributes to the transparency and accountability of the Council's operations. It might be appropriate, therefore, for Member States to consider overall resource requirements for the updating of the Repertoire to ensure that their needs for this publication are fully accommodated.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

57. The Secretariat has reviewed the situation to determine what action could be taken to bring the Repertory and the Repertoire up to date. A number of measures will be taken to facilitate the preparation of the supplements, including delegation of responsibility to the Secretariat units concerned for the preparation of the relevant volumes of the Repertory supplements and simplification of the format. In an effort to eliminate duplication, a merger of the two publications is proposed.

58. However, even with these measures, the flexibility of Secretariat units to adapt to their new responsibilities, to modify their programme of work or to redirect resources to accommodate the preparation of the publications in the next biennium is limited. While the use of interns is a possibility, the availability of an adequate number of staff to provide for their training and supervision remains a problem.

59. In the light of the above, the General Assembly may wish to:

(a) Take note of the efforts made to address the difficulties faced by the Secretariat in bringing the publications up to date;

(b) Note that, for the Repertory, volumes 3 (Articles 55-72) and 4 (Articles 73-91) of Supplement No. 5 (covering the years 1970 to 1978) will be completed by the end of 1999 and volume 5 (Articles 92-111) of Supplement No. 6 (covering the years 1979 to 1984) will be completed by mid-1998;

(c) Note that Supplement No. 10 of the Repertoire (covering the period 1985-1988) will be completed by 1998;

(d) Endorse the proposal to merge the Repertory and the Repertoire;

(e) Request the Secretary-General to continue to make efforts to identify resources to undertake the work required to issue the two publications in a timely manner;

(f) Take note that Repertory-related tasks will be included as distinct activities within future programme budgets of the Secretariat units concerned.

Notes

[1] A/AC.182/L.87 and Corr.1.

[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 33 (A/51/33), para. 119.

[3] For example, the General Assembly held 30 plenary meetings at its eighth session, whereas, at its fiftieth session, it held 128. Again, the number of resolutions which the General Assembly adopted at its eighth session was 114, whereas, at its fiftieth session, it adopted a total of 325 resolutions and 112 decisions.

[4] The term "redeployment" used in paragraph 119 of the Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (see note 2 above) is associated with the specific activities in the framework of the ongoing reform of the Secretariat. In order to avoid the confusion, the term "reallocation" is used in the present report to describe generally the moving of the staff relieved from other assignments to prepare the Repertory or the Repertoire.

[5] ST/AI/415.

[6] The Department of Management has, in principle, approved the focused use of interns for Repertory purposes.

[7] The term "gratis personnel" as used herein refers to type II gratis personnel, as defined in the report of the Secretary-General of 21 November 1996 (A/51/688), namely, personnel contributed on a voluntary basis (in principle, by Governments) to support various activities outside the scope of the Associate Experts programme, internship programme and technical cooperation experts.

[8] See note 2 above.

[9] See para. 28 above.

[10] The Office of Legal Affairs has overall coordinating responsibility for the Repertory.

Annex I

Secretariat units bearing primary responsibility for the preparation of studies on individual provisions of the Charter

Office of Legal Affairs	Articles 1 (1), (3) and (4), 2 (1) to (3) and (5) to (7), 7, 13 (1) (a), 92 to 99, 102 to 105 and 108 to 111
Department of Political Affairs	Articles 1 (2), 2 (4), 3 to 6, 10, 11 (2) to (4), 12, 14, 23 to 39 and 107
Department of Political Affairs with Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Articles 40 to 54 and 106
Department for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services	Articles 9, 11 (1), 15, 16, 18, 20 to 22 and 73 to 91
Department of Management	Articles 8, 17, 19, 100 (1) and 101
Department of Management with Office of Legal Affairs	Article 100 (2)
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Articles 13 (2), 55 (a) and (b), 57 to 62 (1) and (3) to (4) and 63 to 72
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Articles 13 (1) (b), 55 (c), 56 and 62 (2)

Annex II

Secretariat units responsible for the coordination of the preparation of Repertory volumes

Volume 1 (Articles 1 to 8)	Office of Legal Affairs
Volume 2 (Articles 9 to 22)	Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services
Volume 3 (Articles 23 to 54, 106 and 107)	Department of Political Affairs
Volume 4 (Articles 55 to 72)	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Volume 5 (Articles 73 to 91)	Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services
Volume 6 (Articles 92 to 105 and 108 to 111)	Office of Legal Affairs

Annex III

Comparison of the Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council and the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs

Organized by Repertoire Chapter and the Charter articles dealt with therein

	Security Council Repertoire chapter	Repertory Article(s)	Notes
I.	Provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council	27 (3); 28; 30; 98	
II.	Agenda	30	
III.	Participation in the proceedings of the Security Council	30; 31; 32; 35 (1)	The Repertoire's tabulation concerning invitations issued is comparable to that of the Repertory, under Article 31; the Repertoire's tabulation concerning participation is more detailed than that of the Repertory under Article 30.
IV.	Voting	27; 39	This Repertoire chapter and Article 27 in the Repertory present voting information in tabular form, but with different organization and content.
V.	Subsidiary organs of the Security Council	29	
VI.	Relations with other United Nations organs	12, 24 (3); 83; 87; 88; 94; 96; 97	If there were material on the Military Staff Committee, Articles 26 and 47 would also be included here.
VII.	Practice relative to recommendations to the General Assembly regarding membership in the United Nations	4; 5; 6	

	Security Council Repertoire chapter	Repertory Article(s)	Notes
VIII.	Consideration of questions under the Council's responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security	Chapters VI, VII and VIII: 33-54	The analytical table of Chapter VIII appears in the Repertory under Article 24.
IX.	Decisions in the exercise of other functions and powers	12; 93 (2); 97	
X.	Consideration of the provisions of Chapter VI of the Charter	Chapter VI: 33-38	Tabulation contrasting items brought as disputes or situations appears in both Repertoire and under Article 35 of the Repertory, but is more detailed in the Repertoire.
XI.	Consideration of the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter	Chapter VII: 39-51	
XII.	Consideration of the provisions of other Articles of the Charter	1 (2); 2; 24; 25; Chapter VIII; Chapter XII; Chapter XVI; 103; Chapter XVII	

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of the provisional agenda*

SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 29 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 29 August 1997 concerning the invitation to tender issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation relating to the Kazakh sector of the Caspian Sea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under items 38, 39, 99, 100 and 101 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARISTANBEKOVA
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the
United Nations

* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

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ANNEX

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan on 29 August 1997

It is now public knowledge that the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation has invited tenders for the exploitation of the mineral resources of the Caspian Sea. It is planned to announce the results of the invitation to tender in October 1997 in the town of Gelendzhik.

It is clear from the specifications of the invitation to submit tenders that some of the areas involved lie partly within the Kazakh sector of the Caspian Sea. This sector has been determined on the basis of the principle of delimiting the sea-bed along the median line.

Kazakhstan welcomes the desire of the States bordering the Caspian Sea to take practical steps for the development of the hydrocarbon resources of the Caspian Sea and does not rule out the possibility of exploiting jointly with them the deposits in the Kazakh sector of the Caspian shelf. However, such activities must be carried out on the basis of respect for the legitimate rights of the States bordering on the Caspian Sea in accordance with the norms and principles of international law.

The inclusion in the invitation to submit tenders of areas lying within the Kazakh sector of the Caspian Sea is contrary to the joint statement on cooperation in the use of the Caspian Sea issued by the Presidents of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation on 27 April 1997, in which the two sides undertook to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States bordering on the Caspian Sea in conducting activities in the Caspian Sea.

In the view of Kazakhstan, the above-mentioned actions by the Russian Federation complicate the search for a mutually acceptable settlement of the question of the legal status of the Caspian Sea.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is authorized to express strong opposition to this invitation to submit tenders, to state that activities undertaken unilaterally in the territory of Kazakhstan without the latter's agreement are unacceptable and to draw attention to the need to reconsider the decisions that have been taken in this regard. A response along these lines would demonstrate respect for the legitimate rights and interests of all the States bordering on the Caspian Sea and the willingness to solve problems which arise by means of negotiation.

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Item 100 (f) of the provisional agenda*

Environment and sustainable development: Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

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I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 51/183 of 16 December 1996, in which it requested the Secretary-General: (a) to prepare, in 1997, a report on a vulnerability index for small island developing States in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other relevant United Nations and non-United Nations organizations; (b) to seek the views of Governments on the creation of an informal open-ended working group within the existing International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, with a view to ensuring full integration and participation of small island developing States in the mapping of a disaster reduction strategy and in improving access to disaster and warning information; (c) to maintain the Small Island Developing States Unit within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, which has since merged into the new Department of Economic and Social Affairs, at an appropriate level of staff and to improve the structure and organization of the Unit, in accordance with resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994; and (d) to implement fully the relevant provisions of resolution 49/122 regarding a strengthened capacity of UNCTAD to carry out the research and analysis necessary to complement the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In addition, the Assembly requested the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, in its coordinating role, to look into appropriate modalities for mobilizing resources for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[1] thereinafter referred to as the Programme of Action.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in cooperation with Governments, to continue to implement fully all provisions of resolution 49/122 in order to operationalize the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme (SIDSTAP) and the Small Island Developing States Information Network (SIDSNET). The Assembly also called upon the international community, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to support commercial energy development in small island developing States, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-second session a progress report on the particular actions taken to implement the resolution. The present report has been prepared in response to that request. It is based on information provided by the relevant organizations and describes actions taken as at July 1997.

II. Review of progress

A. Vulnerability index

3. In response to the request of the General Assembly, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs undertook initial studies in order to provide a conceptual framework for the development of a vulnerability index. A background paper was prepared and distributed to small island developing States, organizations of the United Nations system and academic and research institutes for comments in December 1996. The paper provided an analysis of the inherent vulnerabilities of small island developing States, discussed a possible approach to the vulnerability issue, and suggested that consideration be given to the construction of an economic vulnerability index and an ecological vulnerability index, each composed of a number of appropriate indicators.

4. By March 1997 more than 20 responses had been received from Governments, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional organizations and research institutes. Those responses were supportive of the main thrust of the background paper. The majority of them also contained observations and suggestions on specific indicators that might be considered for inclusion in the vulnerability index.

5. At its meeting held from 22 to 24 January 1997, Working Group III of the Committee for Development Planning reviewed the background paper and made a number of suggestions on the components of the vulnerability index, which are contained in the Committee's report to the Economic and Social Council on its thirty-first session.[2]

6. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs revised the background paper on the basis of comments and suggestions received from the various commentators. Two consultants have been engaged to evaluate the availability of data, the optimal number of variables to be included in each index, the most appropriate variables to be included and various aggregation methods. That phase of technical work is expected to be completed by November 1997. An expert group meeting is planned for early December in New York, at which time the results of the technical work will be reviewed.

7. Working Group III of the Committee for Development Planning, which will meet in New York from 17 to 19 December 1997, will review the results of the technical work and the outcome of the expert group meeting and will, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 51/183, submit its views and recommendations on the issue to the

Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session and to the Committee at its thirty-second session, both of which will transmit the outcome of their deliberations to the Assembly at its fifty-third session through the Economic and Social Council.

B. Modalities for resource mobilization

8. Regarding the mobilization of resources to facilitate the implementation of the Programme of Action, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs undertook consultations with representatives of the Alliance of Small Island States in New York and with organizations within the United Nations system in the first quarter of 1997. On the basis of the consultations, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs decided that one way to facilitate the mobilization of additional external resources would be through a meeting of donors and representatives of small island developing States. To improve the likelihood that such a meeting would result in tangible outcomes, the small island developing States have been requested to prepare a portfolio of documents on priority projects in the areas covered by the Programme of Action that cannot be implemented without the support of external resources beyond those currently envisaged.

9. In view of the low technical capacity of a number of small island developing States, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs took the initiative to explore the possibility of their obtaining technical assistance in preparing project documents from regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations, selected United Nations organizations and research institutions working on issues related to small island developing States. The response to that initiative was encouraging. Fourteen organizations have offered to assist small island developing States on request. UNDP agreed to assume responsibility for coordinating requests for technical assistance by small island developing States at the regional and subregional levels. In keeping with that decision, small island developing States have been invited to channel their requests through regional or subregional offices of UNDP that have been designated by the UNDP Administrator. Those offices will also be responsible for coordinating the efforts of cooperating organizations assisting small island developing States in the preparation of project documents.

10. In July 1997, the Secretariat wrote to small island developing States, inviting them to prepare project portfolios for presentation at a donors' conference. Concurrently, the Secretariat notified prospective bilateral and multilateral donors of that initiative. The date of the meeting of representatives of small island developing States with prospective donors, to be called by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with UNDP, will depend on the progress small island developing States make in preparing their project portfolios.

C. Small island developing States technical assistance programme and information network

11. In addition to the activities supported by UNDP at the country, regional and interregional levels, the activities undertaken by UNDP in the context of follow-up to the Programme of Action include the preparation of a technical assistance programme covering the 14 chapters of the Programme of Action, the completion of a four-volume directory of experts on small island developing States and institutions designed to facilitate the use of the capacities of those States in the implementation of the Programme of Action and an assessment of the needs of the Caribbean small island developing States in areas such as productivity enhancement, industrial standardization, telecommunications, port management, civil aviation and computer technology.

12. During the period under review, UNDP also launched a pilot information network for small island developing States that will provide them with the capacity to exchange information through the Internet, for example, interactive calendars, forums, mailing lists, Web directory, databases of contacts and other features. It will focus on three chapters of the Programme of Action — those concerning tourism resources, coastal and marine resources and energy resources — and will be managed by centres of excellence in each region. In the context of capacity enhancement for regional training institutions, at the request of UNDP, the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization conducted initial training sessions with selected regional institutions of small island developing States. Lead training institutions were identified, and training sessions were held in Barbados, Fiji and the Seychelles.

D. Natural disasters

13. Following the discussions on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction at the fifty-first session of the

General Assembly, the secretariat of the Decade launched a consolidation process for the remainder of the Decade (1997-1999) by developing a comprehensive and structured action plan. The action plan involves all relevant partners within the Decade's International Framework of Action and is based on consultations with Member States, intergovernmental organizations, the Decade's Scientific and Technical Committee, national committees and focal points, and other relevant international organizations as well as scientific and technical institutions and non-governmental organizations.

14. Consolidation activities within the United Nations system are closely coordinated by the United Nations Steering Committee for the Decade. Regional approaches evaluating the Decade's achievements and defining a disaster reduction strategy for the twenty-first century are key to the Decade's overall success. In that respect, the vulnerability of small island developing States and their requirements for effective disaster reduction capacities and measures will obtain priority consideration, in line with the recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session and those of the General Assembly in resolution 51/183.

15. The consultations on the Decade's consolidation programme focus in particular on the Programme of Action. The Scientific and Technical Committee includes membership from Jamaica and Tonga. As part of the Decade's inter-agency coordination activities, specific concerns of the small island developing States are represented in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the World Meteorological Organization and its Typhoon Committee, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the World Health Organization and UNDP. The secretariat collaborates closely with regional and intergovernmental organizations, such as the Pan American Health Organization, the Caribbean Community, the Organization of American States and the South Pacific Forum.

16. The Programme of Action is also considered within the Decade's implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/117 B of 20 December 1995, on early-warning capacities for natural disasters and similar events with adverse effects on the environment. The Decade's secretariat is in consultation with several donor countries on project proposals to reduce vulnerability in support of sustainable development and for the improvement of early-warning systems, which include specific pilot activities in small island developing States. The project will take into consideration the recommendations made by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session.

17. The South Pacific Programme Office of the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs represents the Decade in the Pacific region and has organized several regional disaster management meetings under the auspices of the Decade. The South Pacific Disaster Reduction Programme, implemented by the South Pacific Programme Office in 18 Pacific States, receives coordinated support from all bilateral donors active in the Pacific.

E. Energy in small island developing States: Activities of GEF

18. The GEF operational strategy has been developed to guide it in the preparation of country-driven projects. The GEF operational strategy in climate change incorporates the policy guidance of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The strategic thrust of GEF-financed climate change activities is to support sustainable measures that minimize damage by reducing the risk or the adverse effects of climate change. GEF finances long-term measures, enabling activities and short-term mitigation projects.

19. The long-term measures are prepared in the context of the operational programmes in the area of climate change and include the removal of barriers to energy conservation and energy efficiency, the promotion of renewable energy by reducing implementation costs and the reduction of the long-term costs of low greenhouse gas-emitting energy technologies. All three of these operational programmes are supporting the development of environmentally sound, renewable sources of commercial energy with demonstrated viability and the improvement of the efficiency of existing technologies and end-use equipment based on conventional energy sources. GEF has funded two projects for small island developing States in the above-mentioned areas: a demand side management demonstration for Jamaica and a sugar bio-energy technology project for Mauritius. The Facility has financed a number of other projects and project preparation activities, which are directly and/or indirectly supporting commercial energy development and efficiency improvement in small island developing States. A number of these are enabling activities – priority activities identified by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. So far small island developing States have benefited from the following projects:

(a) Regional planning for adaptation to climate change: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint.Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago;

(b) Pacific Island Climate Change Assistance Project: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu;

(c) Country projects: Cape Verde, Maldives, Papua New Guinea and Seychelles.

F. Strengthening the secretariat

20. The General Assembly, in resolution 51/183, requested the Secretary-General to maintain the Small Island Developing States Unit within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (now part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs) at an appropriate level of staff and to improve the structure and organization of the Unit, and to implement fully relevant provisions of resolution 49/122 regarding the strengthened capacity of UNCTAD to carry out the research and analysis necessary to complement the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In the context of the reform proposals presented in the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/950), priority attention is attached to reinforcing areas of work related to small island developing States. Thus, in the organization of the new Department of Economic and Social Affairs, it is proposed to strengthen suitably the Small Island Developing States Unit in the Division for Sustainable Development and to enhance its capacity to provide advisory services to small island developing States. At its ninth session, in April and May 1996, UNCTAD decided to continue to support small island developing countries in the framework of the Programme of Action and in accordance with the relevant provisions of resolution 49/122. To that end, a post at the P-4 level has been established in the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries following the recent restructuring of UNCTAD.

21. The ongoing work of UNCTAD in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action consists of: (a) preparation of a background study on external shocks and the vulnerability of small island developing States as an input to the expert group meeting on vulnerability indices planned by Department of Economic and Social Affairs for early December 1997; (b) preparation of a forthcoming publication entitled *Small Island Developing States: Issues of Globalization, Specialization and Regional Cooperation*; (c) construction of trade efficiency indices relevant to small island developing States; and (d) direct assistance to small island developing States in the preparation of economic and trade-related projects for submission to the donors' conference to be convened by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with UNDP.

III. Future programme of work

22. At its fifth session, in 1997, the Commission on Sustainable Development adopted resolution 5/1 on the modalities for the full and comprehensive review of the Programme of Action.[3] In that context it decided to undertake the review of the outstanding chapters and issues of the Programme of Action at its sixth session, in 1998. Furthermore, it recommended that the General Assembly convene a two-day special session immediately preceding its fifty-fourth session, in 1999, for an in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Commission also decided that it would carry out the full review of the Programme of Action within its approved programme of work at its seventh session, which would serve as the preparatory process for the special session of the Assembly in 1999. At its nineteenth special session, devoted to an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Commission and noted that the special session of the Assembly on issues related to small island developing States would represent a significant contribution to achieving the objectives of the Global Conference for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

23. As requested in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 50/116, a report on the plans, programmes and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States that have been implemented in response to the Programme of Action, as well as those that are under implementation and those that are envisaged for implementation within five years of the date of the report, will be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-third session, in 1998.

Notes

[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and Corr.1 and 2).

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 15* (E/1997/35).

[3] *Ibid., Supplement No. 9* (E/1997/29), chap. I.

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Macroeconomic policy questions: science and technology for development

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 50/101 of 20 December 1995, the General Assembly, reaffirming the continuing validity of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development and recognizing that information technologies are important requisites for planning, development and decision-making in science and technology as well as their implications for society, reaffirmed that capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries should remain a priority issue in the United Nations agenda; stressed the importance for developing countries to adopt and implement their own science and technology policies that support the national effort to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development in the light of their respective national conditions, needs, priorities and objectives; also stressed the need to strengthen the important role of the United Nations in the field of science and technology, particularly through effective cooperation in technology assessment, monitoring and forecasting; recognized the role of the private sector in science and technology for development, in particular in the transfer and development of technology capabilities; also recognized the role of Governments, in particular in providing appropriate regulatory frameworks and incentives for the development of science and technology capabilities; and noted the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the decision of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to select information technologies as the substantive theme for the inter-sessional period 1995-1997.

2. The General Assembly took note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to consider ways and means for the formulation of a common vision regarding the future contribution of science and technology for development; reaffirmed the need for Governments and regional and international bodies to take measures to ensure that women have equal access to and equal opportunity to participate in the scientific and technological areas; called upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development to interact more effectively, through the Economic and Social Council, in carrying out their respective mandates; called upon supporting secretariats of the two Commissions to improve their interaction; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its fifty-second session on progress in the implementation of the resolution.

* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

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II. Implementation of science and technology for development aspects of resolution 50/101

3. The present report, prepared pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 50/101, covers the activities falling within the mandates of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and its supporting secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The main strands of these activities comprise work on information and communications technologies; science, technology and innovation policy reviews; gender, science and technology; the formulation of a common vision regarding the future contribution of science and technology for development; and cooperation and coordination of the science and technology related activities of the organizations of the United Nations system.

Information and communications technologies

4. The rapid advancement of information technology in recent years continues to transform the global economy through its impacts on information processing, production, management and competitiveness. These advances, in particular the low cost and miniaturization of microchips, has offered new opportunities for access to and use of information technology to tackle the problems of poverty, economic stagnation, and environmental degradation. However, access to and application of information and communications technologies and ability to exploit their development potentialities cannot be taken for granted in the case of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The critical challenge facing most of the countries is how to access and avail themselves of the undoubted development benefits of information and communications technology notwithstanding the underdevelopment of their technological capability, skill capacity and supporting infrastructure. In embarking on that difficult course, most developing countries, in particular least developed countries, would have little previous experience to go by or proven policy guidelines to follow.

5. Responding to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to understand the complexities of the issues pertaining to information and communications technologies and to guide them in their policy actions, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development decided at its second session, in May 1995, to adopt information and communications technology as the main substantive theme for its second inter-sessional period, 1995-1997, and to address the subject at its third session, in May 1997. In that regard, the Commission established a working group on information and communications technology for the purposes of reviewing the evidence of their implications for development and making policy recommendations for the consideration of the Commission.

6. In carrying out its task, the Working Group sought inputs from and collaborated with several United Nations agencies and other institutions with competence in information and communications technology. In particular, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations University (UNU)/Institute for New Technologies, the International Development Research Centre and the Science and Policy Research Unit of the University of Sussex made significant contributions to the work of the Working Group. The Group indicated that the impact of information and communications technology on economies and societies was not as deep or pervasive as the debate about the benefits of the global information society sometimes made it appear. There were very many people, including some in developed countries, whose lives had barely been touched by those technologies. On the other hand, others had suffered unemployment or difficulties as a result of their introduction. After considering the potential, including the negative, impacts of information and communications technologies and the likely future trajectory of their development, the Working Group concluded that, although the costs of building national information infrastructure were high, the costs of not doing so were likely to be much higher.

7. The Working Group has suggested guidelines that should be noted by national Governments, other stakeholders and agencies of the United Nations system. They are intended to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition design new roles for the public and business sectors so as to enable information and communications technologies to be harnessed to economic, social and environmental development goals.

8. Following its consideration of the report and recommendations of the Working Group on information and communications technology at its third session, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development called for a number of interrelated measures:

(a) Each developing country and country with an economy in transition should establish a national information

and communications technology strategy that took into account, *inter alia*, the guidelines proposed by the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies for Development. Where such strategies already existed, they should be reviewed in the light of the guidelines;

(b) In order to facilitate the exchange of experience among them at the international and regional levels, countries should prepare a report on their information and communications technology strategies for the next session of the Commission in 1999. Reports should include the priorities of each such national strategy, the mechanisms for updating and the procedures for implementing the strategy. To enhance the value of the reports, consideration might be given to the organization of workshops;

(c) Relevant bodies of the United Nations system should assess their capability to provide assistance and promote cooperation in the area of information and communications technology and suggest areas in which they were best able to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the design and implementation of their national strategies;

(d) UNCTAD, as the secretariat of the Commission, should synthesize the results of such assessments and hold, within existing resources, an inter-agency meeting in cooperation with the Commission to review the synthesis.

Science, technology and innovation policy reviews

9. Science, technology and innovation policy reviews are being undertaken by UNCTAD in collaboration with the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/4. UNCTAD was also mandated by the Conference at its ninth session to carry out such reviews at the request of Member States. The need for reviews arose from the overall consensus that the ability of a country to sustain rapid economic growth was in the long run highly dependent on the effectiveness with which its institutions and policies supported the technological transformation and innovativeness of its enterprises. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition, whose science and technology institutions were, for the most part, fragmented, uncoordinated and poorly adapted to meeting local industry's needs, also required mechanisms enabling them to assess their performance and to exchange experiences in that domain. The science, technology and innovation policy reviews were seen as a vehicle for that purpose.

10. The science, technology and innovation policy reviews focus on the national system of innovation, a network of institutions, public and private, whose actions initiate, import, modify and diffuse new technologies. Important actors in that perspective are enterprises interacting with one another and bringing new products, processes and forms of organization into economic use. Other important players include universities, technological institutes, research and development centres, including industry associations, institutions involved in education and training and institutions responsible for the financing of innovations. In contrast to the traditional supply-oriented science and technology reviews, which adopted a more static approach by focusing on a description of science and technology institutions and their output, the science, technology and innovation policy reviews highlight the use and value of those science and technology outputs to production.

11. This first step in responding to a request from a member country for a science, technology and innovation policy review is for the Secretariat to send a brief programming mission to the country concerned in order to discuss the design and content of a background report by the participating country and to select sectors for in-depth evaluation. Once the background report is completed, an international team of experts including members of the Secretariat prepares an evaluation report containing the team's assessment of the science, technology and innovation system in the country and proposes appropriate policy options. In order to bring the policy reviews to the attention of the local community, a final round-table meeting is held in the country between the international experts, the Secretariat and key actors in the national science, technology and innovation system. The background report, as well as the review team's report, is then compiled, edited and prepared by the Secretariat for publication.

12. The first science, technology and innovation policy review to be undertaken was in Colombia. Its objectives were, *inter alia*, (a) to evaluate the efficiency of the prevailing Colombian science and technology institutions in the promotion of technological innovation, in particular in the private sector; (b) to assess the elements of the Colombian framework relevant to the national system of innovations; (c) to examine the role of policies and institutions aimed at fostering activities that lead to technical change; and (d) to promote innovative activities in enterprises of all sizes. The review highlighted the strength and weaknesses of the national system of innovation in Colombia and presented concrete systemic recommendations

for action in critical sectors of the economy by the actors concerned.

13. A second science, technology and innovation policy review is currently under way in Jamaica. Requests for reviews have also been received from Belarus, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Lithuania, Myanmar, Romania and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Gender, science and technology

14. The importance the Commission on Science and Technology for Development attaches to the gender aspects of science and technology is apparent from the fact that it was selected, at the first session of the Commission, as one of its substantive themes for the 1993-1995 inter-sessional period. The Working Group established by the Commission to examine the gender implications of science and technology presented its findings to the Commission at its second session, in May 1995. In its report, the Working Group made two sets of recommendations, one directed at Governments and the other aimed at the organizations of the United Nations system. In addition, the report recommended the establishment of a gender advisory board for a duration of four years, funded by extrabudgetary resources, to ensure that gender issues were adequately addressed in future deliberations of the Commission and to follow the implementation of its recommendations by both Member States and the United Nations system. The Economic and Social Council endorsed those recommendations in its resolution 1995/4.

15. Following its creation, the Gender Advisory Board started work on identifying regional units in the developing countries that could support the formation and activities of national committees set up by Governments in accordance with the Economic and Social Council recommendation on gender, science and technology for development. The first unit to be established will be in Jakarta, as a joint initiative of the Indonesian Institute for Science and the UNESCO Regional Office. The second unit will be in Montevideo, in collaboration with the Centro de Informaciones y Estudios del Uruguay and the UNESCO Regional Office. A third is to be identified in Africa. It is planned to have all the regional units established and operational by early 1998.

16. The Gender Advisory Board, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/the United Nations Development Fund for Women, organized a meeting of organizations of the United Nations system to review the recommendations adopted by the Economic and Social Council and to discuss how to proceed with their implementation. The meeting, held in New York, was attended by representatives of 18 United Nations organizations. In addition, eight representatives from non-governmental organization networks and organizations were invited to attend so as to facilitate discussions regarding working relationships between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations in this area. Among the issues discussed were the relationships between the United Nations organizations, the Gender Advisory Board and UNCTAD; the relevance of the recommendations adopted in 1995 in the light of the subsequent Plan of Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and Development; and the thematic issues to be selected by the Board for its examination. The meeting contributed significantly towards creating common understanding and perceptions on those issues and to determining how the Board should proceed in formulating actions in those areas.

Ways and means for the formulation of a common vision regarding the future contribution of science and technology for development

17. In its resolution 1994/4, the Economic and Social Council invited the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to give consideration to ways and means of taking advantage of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held in Vienna from 20 to 31 August 1979, to formulate a common vision for the future contribution of science and technology for development.

18. In response to that request, the matter was discussed by a Commission on Science and Technology for Development panel, which held a brainstorming meeting at Geneva in December 1996. The panel identified the following four main themes as the basis for developing a common vision:

(a) The concrete impact of science and technology on development, generic and sectoral policies;

(b) Capacity-building in science and technology, including aspects relating to conceptualization, experiences, management and the examination of new opportunities;

(c) The interaction of private enterprises, Governments, academic institutions and civil society groups with science and technology for development;

(d) Assessment of international cooperation networks and the work of organizations active in the field of science and technology.

19. The first of the above four issues was discussed by members of the Commission and experts at a workshop organized in Jamaica prior to the third session of the Commission. Participants addressed a number of areas that were relevant in conceiving a common vision: concepts of development, the positive and negative aspects of science and technology, the relationship between science and technology and society. There was a general notion that a common vision would have to be a long-term concept with a minimum time-frame of one generation. It was stressed that an important element in finding useful applications for science and technology in a country is the ability to organize knowledge, to use data effectively and to make life more predictable for those at the poorer ends of society. At a time when Governments and civil society struggle to face the demands of global transformation, science and technology could be an important tool.

20. Participants viewed "knowledge" as a broad concept that included both codified and "tacit" knowledge. Science and technology was seen as incorporating not just the natural and physical sciences, but social sciences as well. A common vision for the future of science and technology would have to take such a comprehensive view and anticipate the goals to which innovation or learning should ultimately lead, for example, in terms of social development. Such a vision would be a shared responsibility of people and institutions. In that context, technology was not value-free, in particular in countries that could not afford to make more mistakes, and must be understood as context- and application-specific. At the global level, a common vision could create ideas and a framework for Governments and institutions of civil society to follow at the national level. It could mobilize cooperative efforts where they are most needed, for example in least developed countries. It should define the global "knowledge entitlements" and ways for making them reality. It could at the same time formulate guidelines for a science and technology policy useful for developing countries.

21. In discussing generic and sectoral aspects of science policy for development, participants identified a number of issues that could profitably be dealt with by a global forum, for instance, basic needs and science and technology, the gender dimension of science and technology, access to and the impact of information and communication technologies as well as biotechnology, management of science and technology, issues to be solved in relation to intellectual property rights, strengthening of capacities in developing countries, the role of public and private sectors, the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies, ethical issues and international relations and technology cooperation. It was considered that the results of analyses of general, inter-sectoral issues could profitably be made available within the United Nations system to more sector-oriented organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Industrial Organization (UNIDO).

22. At its third session, in May 1997, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development examined the results of the work undertaken with a view to formulating a common vision and suggestions were made concerning additional elements to be taken into account for the elaboration of such a vision. With regard to further modalities for the elaboration of the vision, in particular in the context of the twentieth anniversary of the Vienna Conference, different proposals were presented, including the discussion of a common vision at a global level, with a number of variations, such as the holding of a special session of the General Assembly or of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. The holding of regional events, such as science and technology exhibitions, was also suggested, along with the preparation of a video on science and technology in relation to development, highlighting both positive and negative aspects. In the course of the discussion, the representative of UNESCO officially invited the Commission and the secretariat to participate in the preparations for the World Science Conference, to be held in 1999.

23. In the related resolution adopted by the Commission and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution in 1997/62, it is recommended that the Commission, in the form of expert group meetings, carry out a programme of preparation, as outlined in the report of the meeting of the preparatory working group on that subject, held in December 1996 at Geneva, taking into account regional inputs.

Coalition of resources

24. In its resolution 1995/4, the Economic and Social Council recommended that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development's work at the international level on coalition of resources should focus on specific themes and common goals among recipients, donors and international financial institutions and also that the Commission should provide a forum for exchanging views

and for interaction among partners in different networks and coordination schemes in the area of science and technology for development. Such a forum could be held either as a segment of its biennial sessions or as an inter-sessional activity. In response to that request, the Commission decided to hold a meeting in late 1997 on the coalition of resources on information and communication technologies. The meeting, to be attended by members of the Commission, United Nations agencies and donor organizations, will examine a coalition of resources to finance in developing countries and countries with economies in transition:

(a) The applications of information and communications technologies in the area of health services, such as telemedicine (long-distance consultations, diagnosis and treatment), training, enabling access to the latest developments in health care and health-related research and development activities;

(b) The applications of information and communications technologies in education and learning in areas such as computer literacy, distance learning, distance teaching, development of competences at all levels of qualification, the training of trainers, the provision of hardware and the provision and development of educational software;

(c) The planning, building and operation of transmission infrastructure in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to include such activities as the provision of Internet connectivity, development of local capacity for manufacturing both simple and advanced transmission-related equipment, design of a strategy for developing national transmission infrastructure and the financial requirements of postal administrations as autonomous market-oriented corporations.

25. The meeting will also examine the role and contributions of various key actors, including private business sector companies working in information and communications technologies; private banks/venture capital funds; public sector contributions (direct investments refocusing public funding, training, the provision of loans and the implementation of tax incentives and loan guarantee schemes); and tariffs/user fees, concessional bilateral aid, multilateral financing agencies, public-private partnership and other arrangements.

Coordination of science and technology for development

26. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development was given the task of coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the area of science and technology for development and of making recommendations, if so required, on how the coordination and effectiveness of those activities could best be pursued. Pursuant to that mandate, the Commission took up the issue of coordination and cooperation in science and technology in the United Nations system at its first session, in April 1993. As a first step towards performing its coordination role, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report for its second session on the progress achieved in coordination and cooperation of the science and technology activities of the United Nations system.

27. The subject of coordination and cooperation was taken up by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of July 1993. In that regard, the Council in its resolution 1993/71 requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report containing an analysis and action-oriented proposals for improving coordination mechanisms of the organs, programmes and agencies that are involved in the science and technology activities of the United Nations system.

28. Following its deliberations at its first session, the Commission pursued the objective of system-wide coordination in science and technology by involving agencies in its selected substantive themes during the inter-sessional periods. In the case of the first inter-sessional period (1993-1995), three substantive themes were selected by the Commission, namely, gender, science, technology and development; science and technology aspects of land management; and science and technology for meeting basic needs.

29. Organizations such as the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNESCO, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme, UNU/Institute for New Technologies and the United Nations Environment Programme, among others, have contributed, in their own respective areas of competence, to the studies undertaken and reports prepared by the working groups set up for the three selected substantive themes and have also made inputs

to the preparation of the reports requested of the Secretary-General by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council. All the reports were presented to the Commission at its second session, in May 1995, when it, once again, took up the issue of coordination and cooperation, on the basis of the reports. While the existence of possibly overlapping mandates and programmes could not be excluded, the Commission considered, nonetheless, that the purpose of coordination should be to promote the complementarities of the various activities of the system while avoiding duplication as much as possible. That approach was adopted in undertaking work on the substantive theme chosen for the third inter-sessional period, namely, information and communications technologies. As mentioned in the preceding section on information and communications technology, several United Nations agencies contributed to the work of the Commission in the area. A synthesis report on the activities of the United Nations system in the area was prepared by UNCTAD.

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A/52/321
S/1997/689
5 September 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Item 154 of the provisional agenda*
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 4 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Today's triple bombing on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem was not an isolated incident. It was only the latest in a series of terrorist attacks against innocent Israeli civilians. Nor was today's bombing the work of a singular individual or a small fringe group. These repeated attacks have been supported by a broad infrastructure of terrorism located in the territories under the control of the Palestinian Authority. Indeed, the Hamas organization has taken credit for the attack.

The Palestinian Authority must be held accountable for what has happened in Jerusalem. It would be one thing if the Palestinian security services were making a supreme effort to prevent these attacks, and they occurred anyway. But in this case, the Palestinian Authority has consistently failed to fulfil its security obligations. According to the Oslo II interim agreement between Israel and the PLO, as well as the United States-signed note for the record, the Palestinians have undertaken to fight terrorist organizations and dismantle their infrastructure.

Instead, the infrastructure of Hamas and Islamic Jihad has grown, as the Palestinian Authority has released hundreds of terrorist operatives from its prisons. Moreover, the Palestinian Authority has held back security cooperation with Israel as a political card in our negotiations. Finally, the public embrace of Hamas leaders by the PLO chairman, Mr. Yasser Arafat, sends a message to the Palestinian public legitimizing Hamas actions.

* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

The State of Israel views this terror as a threat to international peace and reserves the right to do what is necessary to provide for the defence of the Israeli people. Peace and terrorism are simply incompatible. Israel expects the international community to send a clear message to the Palestinian Authority to live up to its commitments to fight terrorism. There can be no progress in the peace process without the eradication of the terrorist infrastructure and close cooperation between the Palestinian Authority and Israel in security matters.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 154 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dore GOLD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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5 September 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Items 40 and 81 of the provisional agenda*

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 5 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter from Mr. Hassan Hassanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 40 and 81 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Eldar KOULIEV
Permanent Representative

* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

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ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Letter dated 5 September 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to express my deep concern about the signing in Moscow on 29 August 1997 of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance.

We are particularly concerned about the articles of the Treaty which provide for the two States to render military assistance to each other in exercise of the right of collective self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, the joint use of military facilities and installations, cooperation in the sphere of military production, including the financing of military programmes and the export and import of military technology and weapons, and the joint operation of defence facilities.

The provisions of the Treaty formally established a Russian-Armenian military alliance which, in the circumstances of the continuing armed conflict between the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijani Republic, when 20 per cent of the territory of Azerbaijan has been occupied and over one million people have become refugees and displaced persons, constitutes a direct threat to our security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The provisions of the Treaty may legalize the illegal Russian arms deliveries to Armenia worth over one billion United States dollars which have already upset the military balance in the region.

The signing of the Treaty demonstrates, on the one hand, that the Republic of Armenia does not intend to resolve the Armenian-Azerbaijani armed conflict by political means, but views the further development of the situation in the region in terms of a continuation of the armed confrontation with the Azerbaijani Republic, and on the other, that the Russian Federation is acting in violation of its obligations as the co-chairman of the Minsk Conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the forum designed to eliminate the main consequences of the Armenian-Azerbaijani armed conflict.

Azerbaijan regards the Treaty as a factor which considerably aggravates the tense situation in the armed conflict and weakens the hopes of the peoples of the region for a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, a normalization of relations between the Azerbaijani Republic and the Republic of Armenia, and the establishment of peace and security in the region.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Hassan HASSANOV

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S/1997/691
5 September 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Items 90 and 95 of the provisional agenda*
INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING
TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER
ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE
UNITED NATIONS
QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 5 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale dated 28 August 1997 from the Portuguese Embassy in Canberra to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia concerning the protest expressed by the Government of Portugal against the signature by the Government of Australia of the treaty between Australia and the Republic of Indonesia establishing an exclusive economic zone boundary and certain seabed boundaries, in as far as such treaty relates to the Non-Self-Governing Territory of East Timor (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 90 and 95 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Antonio MONTEIRO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

97-23183 (E) 080997

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ANNEX

Note verbale dated 28 August 1997 from the Embassy of Portugal in Canberra addressed to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Government of Australia

1. The Government of the Portuguese Republic took notice of the signature of a treaty between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia establishing an exclusive economic zone boundary and certain seabed boundaries.

In addition to subject matters that concern Australia and Indonesia (only), the treaty purports to establish the exclusive economic zone boundary between Australia and the Non-Self-Governing Territory of East Timor.

2. In such point, the "treaty follows the path of the treaty between Australia and the Republic of Indonesia on the zone of cooperation in an area between the Indonesia Province of East Timor and northern Australia", dated 11 December 1989, now with the aggravating circumstance that it intends to establish a permanent delimitation of the spaces (exclusive economic zone) appertaining respectively to Australia and to the Non-Self-Governing Territory of East Timor.

3. Portugal does not recognize the intended delimitation and contends that on such matter the signature of the treaty constitutes one violation more to the status of East Timor as a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, and to the rights of the people of East Timor, as well as to the status of the administering Power of the Territory.

4. The Government of Portugal recalls that during the proceedings of the East Timor case Australia formally acknowledged and the International Court of Justice took due notice thereof (para. 31 of the Judgment), that "the Territory of East Timor remains a Non-Self-Governing Territory and its people has the right to self-determination". Portugal maintains that the "de jure" recognition by Australia of the incorporation of East Timor in Indonesia is inconsistent with such acknowledgement.

5. The Government of Portugal reminds that, by its Judgment of 30 June 1995, the International Court of Justice declined to exercise jurisdiction in the East Timor case because, in the Court's view, "in order to decide the claims of Portugal, it would have to rule, as a prerequisite, on the lawfulness of Indonesia's conduct in the absence on that State's consent". "Whether the power to make treaties concerning [in the case] the continental shelf resources of East Timor belongs to Portugal or Indonesia would depend on whether Indonesia's entry into and continued presence in the Territory are lawful" (para. 35).

Portugal strongly emphasizes that Indonesia's entry into and continued presence in the Non-Self-Governing Territory of East Timor are unlawful, because they violate two fundamental rules of international law: the prohibition of the

use of force and of territorial acquisition by the use of force, and the principle of self-determination of peoples.

7. Therefore the Government of Portugal lodges its most vehement protest against the signature by the Government of Australia of the treaty between Australia and the Republic of Indonesia establishing an exclusive economic zone boundary and certain seabed boundaries, in as far as such treaty relates to the Territory of East Timor.